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Meetings Continue in Brasilia With Guarantor States

Peru To Send Missions To 'Correct' Image

PY1302221395 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1951 GMT 13 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brasilia, 13 Feb (EFE)—Peruvian Deputy Foreign Minister Eduardo Ponce explained today that the eight delegations of Peruvian "personalities" who will visit 23 countries in Latin America and Europe seek to correct the distortions created in the Peruvian image from the beginning of the armed conflict with Ecuador on 26 January.

Ponce, who is the government representative at the negotiations for a cease-fire that have been held in Brazil since 31 January, said: "It has been verified that it (the Peruvian image) is quite unfavorably distorted."

He explained that the eight Peruvian delegations who began their missions today will explain the Peruvian position on the armed border conflict with Ecuador.

Ponce held a brief conversation with reporters upon leaving Itamaraty, the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, after holding a one-hour meeting with the mediators in the conflict.

Ponce explained that the eight missions are made up of 19 Peruvian personalities from the diplomatic, academic, juridical, and journalistic fields.

He added that the "personalities" will fulfill a similar role to that played by Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen on 5 February when he visited Brazil, Argentina, and Chile to explain his government's position in face of the conflict, and the possible options for a peaceful solution.

Ponce added that Peru believes it is necessary to have full respect for the Rio de Janeiro Protocol signed by Peru and Ecuador in 1942, which fixed the borders between the two countries under the supervision of the four guarantor countries, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States.

The delegates of the four countries, who are known as the guarantors of the negotiations, continue today in a new session of contacts and dialogue in their effort to arrange a peace agreement between the two countries.

Today's session began at 1715 GMT, with the sole absence of the Ecuadoran representative, Deputy Foreign Minister Marcelo Fernandez, who on 11 February held a one-hour meeting with the guarantors. [passage omitted]

Ecuador Declines Comment on Possible Cease-Fire

PY1302224195 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2030 GMT 13 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia, 13 Feb (EFE)—On 13 February, Ecuadoran Deputy Foreign Minister Marcelo Fernandez, who is at present negotiating a cease-fire with Peru, stated that the most difficult thing in these negotiations is to reconcile dialogue with the ongoing armed conflict on the border between Ecuador and Peru.

After having met with representatives of the mediator countries in the conflict (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States), Fernandez said that "we cannot make any comment" on the progress of the negotiations of a cease-fire "until we have a final result."

Upon being asked by the press about the interests that Ecuador might forgo in exchange for a cessation of hostilities, Fernandez replied: "We are working unceasingly and cannot reveal what we are willing to give up."

He nonetheless made it clear that "as long as there is dialogue, that means we are making headway in the negotiations." He announced that today the official representatives from Peru and Ecuador will continue holding meetings with the diplomats from the four guarantor countries "during the entire day, until I do not know what time in the evening."

The Ecuadoran deputy foreign minister underscored that his country "has always been willing to maintain peace," adding that "it is most urgent" that a solution be found to this conflict.

Concerning the charges of aggression against international correspondents leveled against the Quito authorities, Fernandez said that Ecuador has always been open to the foreign media. He further stated that he was sure that journalists from all nationalities have been able to do their job with total freedom.

The Ecuadoran deputy foreign minister left Itamaraty Palace, the seat of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, where negotiations are being held, 45 minutes later than his Peruvian counterpart, Eduardo Ponce.

Fernandez and Ponce met separately with the official representatives from the four guarantor countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol of 1942, which partially settled the border dispute between the two South American countries.

Negotiations between the guarantor countries toward a cease-fire between the feuding parties have been going on now for three weeks in a row.

The delegates from the four guarantor countries have been engaged in a new round of meetings and contacts since 1715 GMT to see whether they can obtain a cessation of hostilities, which are taking place in the jungle area of the Amazon region.

'New Optimism' Noted in Peace Talks

PY1402002195 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2211 GMT 13 Feb 95

[Live telephone interview with EFE correspondent in Rio de Janeiro Hernan Bau by announcer Alvaro Ugaz in Lima]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ugaz] Good evening, Hernan.

[Bau] Good evening, Alvaro. Cordial greetings to your listeners.

[Ugaz] We would like you to tell us about the meeting being held by the guarantor representatives. We understand that the Peruvian and Ecuadoran representatives are not attending the meeting.

[Bau] The meeting began at 1715 GMT with the participation of the Peruvian representative, Eduardo Ponce, who held private talks lasting about one hour with the guarantors, who are meeting in the Brazilian Foreign Ministry. Ponce left 45 minutes later. Then the Ecuadoran representative, Marcelo Fernandez, joined the guarantors for a meeting of about 30 minutes. The two representatives did not say whether much if any progress was made in this phase of the negotiations, which are in their third week, first in Rio de Janeiro and now in Brasilia. All the attention is now being concentrated on the comments made in Quito by Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen, who said that the new proposal submitted by the guarantors would allow a cease-fire within the next few hours. The new proposal is not really known here, because the comments made by the two representatives and the guarantors are ambiguous and brief. It is therefore impossible to establish how the negotiations are going. But there is a new optimism in the atmosphere, especially because before going into the meeting the Argentine representative and his Chilean counterpart said they were going into a new and urgent phase to achieve either a final cease-fire, which would be the success of the negotiating mission, or a terrible frustration for Latin American diplomacy, as expressed by Argentine representative Juan Jose Uranga.

[Ugaz] How would analysts and reporters interpret the reports yesterday from Brasilia that the Peruvian representative came out from the meeting upset, and the reports now from Quito that Ecuador would accept the proposal made by the guarantors with only very slight changes made to the new proposal? Could this be interpreted as a slight advantage for Ecuador?

[Bau] There has been no interpretation from the point of view of advantages, as it is really impossible to establish from the comments of the two representatives what the points of the negotiations are. Ecuadoran representative Marcelo Fernandez was the one who especially insisted on the possibility of rapprochement and progress in his meetings with his Peruvian counterpart. There has been, however, since 11 February no report of meetings in this regard. There is hope that the two representatives will join the meeting of the guarantors again tonight in the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, because they have not returned since they held separate private talks with the guarantors at the beginning of the meeting. According to a source close to the guarantors, it is possible that the two representatives will join the meeting again tonight.

[Ugaz] Let me ask you a last question. I know it is very difficult to have official information if it does not come from the Brazilian deputy foreign minister. But we understand that the slight changes made by Ecuador on the guarantors' proposal were going to come to Brasilia in written form. Are the guarantors already evaluating the slight changes made by Ecuador?

[Bau] Everything seems to indicate that they are evaluating them, everything seems to indicate that this phase of negotiations involves consultations, the process of receiving all the documents that are part of the changes or agreements made by the respective governments. Everyone is now expecting a representative of the guarantors to announce a mutual agreement. Expectations are therefore growing due to the comments made by the Ecuadoran president, the announcement that might be made by Peruvian representative Eduardo Ponce, or the news that may come from the Brazilian Foreign Ministry.

[Ugaz] Thank you very much, Hernan Bau of EFE, for the firsthand information during a crucial moment in the diplomatic negotiations in Brasilia. This information is very valuable to both Peruvians and Ecuadoreans alike.

Guarantors 'Surprised' by Peruvian Cease-Fire

PY1402050395 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0420 GMT 14 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia, 14 Feb (EFE)—The representatives of the guarantor countries in the conflict between Ecuador and Peru tonight said they were "surprised" by the announcement of a cease-fire after an alleged military victory by Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori.

The guarantor countries, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States, had just been notified by telephone by Peruvian Vice Foreign Minister Eduardo Ponce, but had still not received the official Peruvian Government document tonight.

The unexpected announcement by Fujimori interrupted the meeting of the guarantors, who for the past 15 days have been trying to reconcile discrepancies between the two Andean countries in order to at least obtain a cease-fire.

Eduardo Farias, spokesman for the guarantor countries, said that on 14 February, when the official announcement of the two parties has been made, they will start to assess the situation.

Cuba

Envoy Denies Cuba Supplied Equipment to Peru

FL1302154795 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Feb 95

[From the "First Thing" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rene Castro Marchante, Cuban ambassador to Ecuador, today denied that Cuba would have supplied military equipment and arms to Peru to be used in the military conflict along the two Andean nations' common border.

Radio Havana Notes Transfer of Cubans From Panama

PA1402025895 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Feb 95

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] More than 5,000 Cubans so far have been transferred by air to the Guantanamo Naval Base from U.S. camps located along the banks of the Panama Canal. A U.S. Southern Command spokesman has said 440 of the so-called rafters, who had been housed at the Panama Canal camps since this past September, had been transferred this Monday. More than 3,500 heavily armed soldiers have been concentrated at the interoceanic Canal Zone to protect the camps from the Cuban immigrants. During the next few days 2,000 additional Cubans will be transferred to the Guantanamo Naval Base.

Robaina Concludes Visit to Philippines

PA1102173595 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1610 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manila, 10 Feb (PL)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina today concluded his visit to the Philippines with an intense working meeting, during which he signed a two-way agreement between Havana and Manila with Manila's acting Mayor Jose Atienza.

For the signing, Robaina and Atienza chaired a modest ceremony, during which they stressed that the document constitutes a major step in the process to promote bilateral relations. The document will enable the two countries to increase cooperation in the restoration of historic areas in the two capitals.

Robaina also met with the presidents of the two chambers of the legislative branch, who expressed their interest in promoting ties between the two parliaments, sources from the two countries said. The Philippines was the sixth and final leg of Robaina's Asian tour.

Subsequently, Robaina met with a large group of members of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry from that archipelago and briefed them on his country's current economic situation and on opportunities for joint investment and business ventures.

Before a full house at the National University, Robaina met with members of the various organizations of solidarity with Cuba and told them about Cuba's current strategy.

The night before, Robaina was greeted by Philippine President Fidel Ramos and delivered a message from President Fidel Castro, who expressed his earnest hopes for the development of bilateral relations.

Ramos used the opportunity to convey special regards to the Latin American statesman and voice his hopes of increasing cooperation in the areas of applied biotechnology for agricultural purposes, biopharmacy, and sports, among others.

Robaina's tour, which began on 25 January, included Japan, North Korea, Thailand, Nepal, and China.

Robaina Discusses Asian Tour, Helms Bill

FL1402030195 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Feb 95

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] During an exclusive interview given to this program, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina stated that his recently concluded tour of six Asian countries was very positive. Robaina added that this tour represented a continuation of last year's tour of other Asian countries. This tour included Japan, the DPRK, Nepal, China, and the Philippines.

[Begin Robaina recording] Among the tour's most important things was the meeting with Japan's industrial federation, the interest developed among the members of Thailand's Chamber of Commerce and industrial sector, the interest developed among the members of the Philippines' Chamber of Commerce, and the interest developed in Nepal in our sugarcane industry's technology and our sports trainers. When you see something like that you know it is not a matter of what ship is arriving in Cuba, but what foreign investments are arriving and in what can we invest. That is what guarantees the future of a country, not just one week or 15 to 20 days. [end recording]

When asked about U.S. Senator Jesse Helms' recently proposed bill calling for further strengthening the U.S. blockade against Cuba, Robaina responded:

[Begin Robaina recording] Internationalize a process of sanctions against Cuba: there are internal tendencies favoring it in the United States. However, we are aware of the world's reaction to this attempt to internationalize the blockade. I think that no matter how much hatred some politicians may have for Cuba, this type of criteria cannot be imposed. Now more than ever U.S. society and business sectors need to be aware of what they are trying to do. Now more than ever we have to denounce to the world that neither the United States nor anyone else has a power over Cuba of who can or cannot trade with Cuba. [end recording]

TV Highlights Fidel Castro's EL SOL Interview

FL1102033795 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Feb 95

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today's GRANMA includes the complete text of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro's 19 January interview with Mario Vazquez Rana, president and general director of the Mexican editorial organization. Several issues relating to Cuba's economic and international policies were broached during the conversation. In reference to the changes that have been implemented in Cuba, Fidel referred to issues such as the modification of the electoral system; the Republic's Constitution; and Cuba's opening to foreign investment, a necessary transformation to survive in the exceptional circumstances of today's world. Fidel explained that our goal now is economic recovery [words indistinct] the struggle of the Cuban people. During the conversation with Vazquez, Fidel made reference to the importance of Ibero-American summits as steps toward the needed integration of the region. He highlighted the value of the principles of sovereignty and independence of nations. Fidel also pointed out that the existence of deep social differences is a fundamental hazard to peace and stability in Latin America.

Commentator Notes Stability in Mexico 'Essential'

FL1402021395 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 13 Feb 95

[Commentary by Eduardo Dimas; from the "Doing Radio" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Good morning. The latest information out of Chiapas indicates that the Mexican Army has strengthened its presence in the most important towns and cities, and especially in the municipal capitals. The death of an Army colonel has also been reported, and there is no indication that the Zapatists are backing off. When it appeared that the Mexican Government and the force called the Zapatist National Liberation Army were going to reach a peaceful resolution, new elements dashed this possibility. On 9 February, President Ernesto Zedillo ordered the arrest of several of the rebel leaders and ordered the Army to cooperate with the Mexican attorney general's office. The reason appears to have been the identification of Subcommander Marcos as Rafael Sebastian Guillen from Tampico, a former member of an armed movement that operated in 1969, and not a legitimate representative of the Chiapas indigenous community as had been previously believed. In addition, the public force carried out several operations in which they detained individuals linked to the rebels, and seized a cache of arms in Mexico City, which leads one to believe that the Zapatist Army has clandestine cells in other parts of the country, which is very dangerous to Mexico's stability. By Presidential decree, the Army has so far taken over certain municipal capitals in Chiapas without resistance so far. The Zapatists have retreated into the interior of the Lacandon jungle region, access to which, it has been said, was mined. In statements to the press, Subcommander Marcos said that if the government attempts to threaten the Zapatist Army with annihilation, the rebel forces will respond with long-term armed resistance. Nonetheless, the way President Zedillo has approached the matter opens the possibility for dialogue among the government, indigenous leaders, and rebel farmers, because he does, in fact, recognize the validity of their demands.

In this way, Mexican authorities are able to keep the Indian problem separate from political actions, which seem to be considered externally inspired, and not a local phenomenon. Nonetheless, as the Mexican Government itself recognizes, the Indian situation is critical, and therefore, explosive. The director of the National Indian Institute (INI), Carlos Tello Macias, recently pointed out that the Mexican indigenous communities have common denominators in their development: poverty, inequality, and exploitation. Tello Macias urged the forging of a new alliance between the Indian peoples and Mexican society based on peaceful, productive, and respectful coexistence. He also said that the historic complaints regarding justice, land, services, political, social, and self- determination rights are crucial in the formation of a more just, democratic Mexico. Tello Macias stressed that recent statistics show that 35 million people live in critical poverty in Mexico, while 97 percent of Indian peoples live marginally. You could infer from Tello Macias' statements that Chiapas is not the only region where Mexican Indians live under deplorable conditions, and that conditions exist in other states that could lead to social upheaval. This, it seems, is one of the dangers that the government seeks to ward off. I therefore believe that military action, besides being long and bloody, is not the solution to the problem, but exactly the opposite. The fact that the authorities are aware of the Indian situation opens the possibility of resolving an historic problem that, at these levels, could provoke difficulties for the government of this sister nation, which is already suffering a strong economic crisis. The economic, political, and social stability of Mexico is essential for all of Latin America and the Caribbean. I am certain, therefore, that we all hope that the ring of peace talks prevail over the roar of guns.

French Oil Firm Spokesman Explains Withdrawal

FL1202205595 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Feb 95

[From the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] (Bernard Sudro), general manager of the French firm, Total Explorations, stated that Total would remain in Cuba despite the firm's announcement in January that they would abandon the bloc contracted for oil explorations in Cuba. (Sudro), who denied that there were any political implications behind that decision, explained in an exclusive interview with PRENSA LATINA that after drilling two deposits in Matanzas Province, his firm did not find petroleum and decided to withdraw its contract for oil exploration. The manager assured that: This is what happened with Total in Cuba, nothing else. He pointed out that Total, the investment pioneer in Cuba's oil industry since 1990, will leave behind a representative of its ink division, associated with its chemical union, which supplies tires and gaskets for the Cuban sugar combines.

Engineer (Sudro) commented that abandonment of the oil exploration project involves the payment of expenses incurred during the research and drilling of the two deposits, adding that for a successful company like Total, this is customary. The contract with the Cuban Firm CUPET states that the contractor will pay for all costs of exploration, and that only in the case of oil discovery, would the companies share the benefits.

After pointing out that statistics in the oil industry worldwide reflect a success rate of one out of 10 in the exploration of deposits, Sudro stated that not having found oil in the drilled deposits means only that it is necessary to continue looking. In that sense, the French specialist recommended that the dozens of companies that share and participate in the exploration and drilling of oil deposits in Cuba continue searching and do not disregard the possibility of Total returning to Cuba later on and contracting another bloc.

On the impact of the blockade, he stated what is clear: that if the United States would lift its blockade against Cuba, U.S. companies would come to Cuba. So far as his relations with Cuban authorities go, he stated that they have always been good and friendly and that from a personal point of view, he would like to return to Cuba someday.

Bank President, UK Executives Discuss Debt

PA1102020795 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0133 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 6 Feb (PL)—Francisco Soberon, the new National Bank of Cuba president, and executives of four British financial houses today discussed issues regarding bilateral debt and cooperation between the United Kingdom and this Caribbean country.

Members of the British business delegation headed by Baroness Janet Mary Young met privately behind closed doors with their counterparts at the headquarters of the Cuban central bank.

Sources close to the meeting recalled that Cuba suspended foreign debt payments in 1986. The foreign debt is estimated at more than $7 billion, which is owed to industrialized countries.

At a news conference, Ernesto Melendez, foreign investment and economic cooperation minister, admitted Cuba was willing to discuss the swapping of foreign debt in 1994 for shares or securities of its industrial companies. This method, known as "swaps," was used in investment agreements signed with Mexican companies.

Meanwhile, Vice President Carlos Lage, in the speech he delivered to the World Economic Forum in Davos on 27 January, confirmed the Caribbean country's willingness to examine with the Paris Club and other appropriate multilateral or bilateral forums the possibilities of reaching flexible agreements with reasonable solutions.

Lage said "we have found paths of cooperation with certain countries that have allowed us not only to honor commitments but also to increase trade and investments."

Baroness Young said to take advantage, as [sentence as received]

Nationwide Push for Higher Sugarcane Yields Noted

FL1102024795 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Feb 95

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sugarcane farmers nationwide are aiming for higher yields during the forthcoming sugarcane harvest with plans to plant 30,000 caballerias of sugarcane nationwide this year and to weed 270,000 caballerias by hand. This effort is being given top priority in every province in the run-up to the harvest. Agrarian equipment operators are key to fulfilling the planting program: They must prepare 18,600 caballerias this quarter in anticipation of the spring campaign. It is most important to tend the new fields during the current weeding campaign without abandoning other chores. Sugar Industry Ministry workers last year planted more than 20,000 caballerias of sugarcane and weeded 12,007 caballerias, more than in 1994 but less than what was projected to meet the nation's needs.

Nuclear Agency Official Discusses Program Prospects

FL1002230195 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Andres Garcia de la Cruz, of the Science, Technology, and Environment Ministry's nuclear agency, has told NUCLEUS magazine that Cuban nuclear program prospects would be more successful if Cuba could make more rational use of the infrastructure it has created and could employ national resources more efficiently. De la Cruz added that plans include work on experimental reactors and irradiators, including simpler technologies such as the production of lead blocks to prevent radiation leaks, highly necessary in medicine and other sectors. He also suggested that Cuba take a leading role in Central America and the Caribbean, where, through the International Atomic Energy Agency, Cuba could offer specialists the opportunity to collaborate with other countries in the region.

Bahamas

530 Haitian Exiles Repatriated 13 Feb

FL1402032295 Bridgetown CANA in English 2237 GMT 13 Feb 95

[By Athena Damianos]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nassau, Bahamas, Feb 13, CANA—Five hundred and thirty illegal Haitian immigrants left Nassau shortly after noon Monday in high spirits, in the second repatriation to take place under a recently concluded treaty between the Bahamas and Haiti. About 130 of them sailed on board the Defence Force craft, Fort Montagu, with the remainder making the 53-hour journey aboard the vessel, "Eastore." Seen off by a group of at least 100 family members and friends, the Haitians seemed happy to be returning to their impoverished homeland.

"I'm glad to go back and see my family, all of them are in Haiti. I have no family in Bahamas," a man, who claimed he has lived in Nassau for 15 years, said. "Immigration came to pick me up at five o'clock in the morning. They were pretty nice. I'm happy to go back and see my family and also my family will feel very happy when I get back. They'll know I'm alive. When I go back, I'll do some diving and fishing," he said.

The treaty signed last month provides for the repatriation of 800 illegal immigrants a month. Haitians who can prove that they have been in the Bahamas for 10 years or longer will have their status regularised under the terms of the treaty.

As each busload of immigrants arrived at the dock this morning, the Haitians on the boats applauded and cheered. Not everyone was happy. Basset Joseph, who said he has lived in Nassau for 23 years, claimed that the Haitians that they arrested were not the people the authorities were looking for.

"If they arrested 300 people, in that 300, maybe 75 of them are newcomers. When I say newcomers, I mean those who have been here eight or nine years. Most of them are people who have been in this Bahamas for 12, 15 or 20 years. These are the people they arrested," he said. "These people had (work) permits when they were arrested and taken to the detention centre. Their permits were stolen by people who broke into their houses and stole their things. After that, they released them. When they released them—they don't find nothing in their house. Because the thieves done carry everything."

Only 80 of the 530 immigrants who were repatriated today volunteered to leave. Most of the 530 Haitians were arrested last Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The Ministry of Public Safety originally announced that 489 people [word indistinct] 637. However, only 278 of these people were retained. Most of the others had to leave.

Haiti

FRAPH Leader Criticizes Aristide, Urges Mobilization

FL1302221195 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 6 Feb 95

[Passages within italics in Creole]

[FBIS Translated Text] Emmanuel Constant, secretary general of the Revolutionary Front for the Promotion and Progress of Haiti [FRAPH], chose 7 February for addressing his partisans. He presented an assessment of the four months since President Aristide's return. In Constant's opinion, anarchy and insecurity have reigned in the country since Aristide returned. The FRAPH official, reportedly in exile or in hiding, points out that insecurity is created by those who enjoy impunity from the U.S. military and the Haitian Government. Furthermore, Constant called on his partisans to mobilize for the upcoming elections. Let us listen:

[Begin Constant recording] President Aristide: Offenders often forget, but the offended always remember. The Haitian people have forgiven you for the three years of embargo they have undergone. History will not forgive so easily. Be frank, be conciliatory. After your management for the past four months, the people will have to ask before voting: *Why should we be grateful toward him? The ball is in your court, President.*

As for you, FRAPH members, close ranks, remain mobilized because as the elections approach, order, discipline, justice, and the highest good for the greatest number will have to win out over the anarchy we are currently experiencing. *FRAPH people, where are you? FRAPH is you, FRAPH is me.* Emmanuel Toto Constant, secretary general of FRAPH. [end recording]

Release of Electoral Law Expected in Eight Days

FL1302221095 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in Creole 1230 GMT 13 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to government sources, the executive is currently working on the amendments to the electoral law proposed by the Chamber of Deputies, with publication of the law expected in less than eight days. Questioned by journalists, Leslie Voltaire, head of the president's private cabinet, pointed out that the executive is now holding consultations with the Provisional Electoral Council on modification of certain unpopular amendments that were added to the text of the electoral bill by the deputies. Voltaire says that once this work is complete, the electoral law will be released. [passage omitted]

The government is also holding consultations on the formation of an advisory council to cushion the impact of the vacuum resulting from the absence of a Parliament, says Voltaire, who advises that 75 percent of those consulted have approved of the idea of an advisory council.

[Begin Voltaire recording] We proposed the notion of an advisory council to help the executive with its decisions on the order and decrees to be published regarding the emergency situation just undertaken by the prime minister. We considered forming the council with the existing [nine out of 27] senators, and two or three judges from the Court of Cassation, among them presidents of the Senate and of the Court of Cassation. We intended to appoint two persons per sector as assistants to these two authorities. The consultations have so far reflected 75 percent in favor, and 25 percent opposed, on the basis that forming a council would take too much time and energy, and that the president would be better off, as the prime minister also recently suggested, governing by orders or decrees on emergency issues. [end recording]

Interim Police Officer, Schrager Deny Deaths in Limbe

FL1302231395 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2000 GMT 13 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There is a contradictory report on the Limbe incident. According to Major Dany Toussaint, an officer in charge of the interim police, one police officer was manhandled and four rifles stolen. Maj. Toussaint asserted that no one has been killed, in contradiction to the Cap-Haitien press report that the incident had resulted in four or five deaths. The spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince, Stanley Schrager, also stated that there were no dead and that a small unarmed crowd, including failed candidates for the new Haitian police force, were at the scene of the incident.

Turks and Caicos

Governor Lists Members of New Government

FL1002212695 Bridgetown CANA in English 1655 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, Feb. 10, CANA—New Turks and Caicos Chief Minister, Derek Taylor, has taken the important finance portfolio. He is also serving as Minister of Development and Commerce, with responsibility for the Finance, Treasury and Customs Departments, the Gaming Inspectorate and the Government's Central Purchasing Unit.

Ministerial portfolios for the new Government were announced by Governor Martin Bourke, after the People's Democratic Movement (PDM) won a general election, unseating the Progressive National Party (PNP).

In keeping with the constitution, as Minister of Finance, Taylor will be responsible for the promotion of offshore finance but will not have direct responsibility for the country's vital offshore finance industry, which remains the responsibility of the Governor. A statement from the Governor's Office explained that Taylor will be responsible for promotion of offshore finance, "excluding international and offshore financial relations, resources and services and any directly related aspect of finance."

The other portfolios assigned by the Governor, "after consultation with, and on the advice of the Hon. Chief Minister", are—

Deputy Chief Minister Samuel Harvey—Minister of Works, Labour and Immigration, with responsibility for public utilities and disaster preparedness;

Former Chief Minister Oswald Skippings—Minister of Communications, Transport and Tourism. He will also be responsible for "Caricom [Caribbean Community] affairs and affairs related to the Association of Caribbean States" as well as for information and broadcasting;

Clarence Selver—Minister of Education, Health, Youth and Sports;

Staven Rigby—Minister of Natural Resources, Planning, Environment and Heritage; and

Hilly Ewing—Minister of Local Government Affairs, Social Welfare, Agriculture and Fisheries.

The ministers were sworn in as members of the Executive Council on February 3 and together with the other candidates who won their seats at the January 31 election, they will be sworn in as members of the Legislative Council February 17.

Jalisco Gubernatorial Election Ends Peacefully

PA1302133895 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0122 GMT 13 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Guadalajara, 12 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The authorities reported that after 10 hours of voting to elect a new governor, mayors, and local deputies, the nearly 6,000 voting stations installed throughout the western Mexican state of Jalisco had closed without any major incidents.

Spokespersons for the police reported that "there were no major incidents" in the state's 124 municipalities, while some polling station officials claim that the voting process was "poorly attended," but "exemplary, quiet, and without incidents."

In this Sunday's elections, the first scheduled for the country's 1995 electoral program, nine political parties participated with their own candidates, and contended for the governor's office, 37 seats in the local congress, and 124 municipal mayoralties.

"Jalisco is providing evidence that things can be done properly, since the election process developed in peace with significant participation," noted Governor Carlos Rivera Aceves of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

In order to accommodate the more than 3 million voters registered on the register, 5,829 polling stations were installed and attended by nearly 50,000 officials, as well as party representatives.

The election took place under strict security measures that included 13,000 police agents.

Election authorities, who reported minor incidents throughout the state, and the arrest of two individuals for street fighting, announced that the elections results will be disclosed next Wednesday.

The Jalisco elections are part of the election agenda scheduled for 1995 in Mexico which will include the election of governors and local authorities in 16 of the 31 states.

Polls Show PAN Win; Cardenas Comments

PA1302154595 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network 1300 GMT 13 Feb 95

[From the "Early Morning" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Everything seems to indicate that the PAN [National Action Party] will also govern Jalisco State. According to several exit polls, the PAN gubernatorial candidate, Alberto Cardenas Jimenez, beat the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] candidate by a wide margin. In Sunday's elections, 75 percent of voters cast their ballots. Here is a report by our special correspondent.

[Unidentified reporter] The celebrations got started, and the PAN ruled the night. Meanwhile, PAN candidate Alberto Cardenas Jimenez pledged a good administration in view of his virtual election as new the governor.

[Begin Cardenas recording] My government—and yours too—will [words indistinct] that will emerge from [words indistinct] will meet the demands and needs of all citizens of the state. I thank those who supported me for their invaluable effort in this formidable candidacy for the state government. I invite you to maintain that effort, spirit, devotion, and confidence in the future of Jalisco. [end recording]

[Reporter] During his first exclusive interview with a news organization after receiving the favorable results, Cardenas Jimenez reiterated his decision to govern democratically.

[Begin Cardenas recording] This is how we must march toward democracy: in peace, order, and in a generous spirit for everyone so that everything will turn out fine. Today's [words indistinct] highly reliable and certain; there was no room for doubt. Therefore, we are beginning on solid ground. [end recording]

[Reporter] When he went to cast his vote in his hometown, Ciudad Guzman—located 90 minutes from Guadalajara—as everything was up for grabs, the PAN candidate was voicing confidence in his victory.

[Begin Cardenas recording] We want to find the best men and women in Jalisco. Since December, I have been asking the different sectors with which I have met to send me resumes. We have been doing that since December. Today, I have received some. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Madrid EFE in Spanish at 0701 GMT on 13 February transmits a related 350-word, Guadalajara-datelined report which, citing "the first unofficial figures," states that the PAN won 54 percent of the vote, the PRI 36 percent, and the Party of the Democratic Revolution 4 percent.]

Zedillo Expresses Satisfaction

PA1402045995 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0242 GMT 14 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 13 Feb (Notimex)—Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo today expressed his satisfaction with the order, tranquility, and clear manner in which general elections in the western state of Jalisco had taken place.

In a communique issued this afternoon, the president congratulated Alberto Cardenas Jimenez, the conservative National Action Party's (PAN) candidate for governor, who is being favored so far by preliminary results.

Zedillo expressed to Cardenas Jimenez his strong willingness to work with absolute respect for Jalisco's sovereignty and to cooperate rigorously and efficiently in providing answers to the demands posed by the people of this state.

Jalisco's State Electoral Council disclosed today that after having counted the votes from 3,153 of the 5,829 polling stations, Cardenas Jimenez, a 36-year-old engineer, was heading the vote count with 54.46 percent of the total votes cast this Sunday.

In second place was Eugenio Ruiz Orozco, the Institutional Revolutionary Party's (PRI) candidate, with 35.90 percent of the total votes, followed by Mario Saucedo, from the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), with 3.92 percent.

Elections took place this past Sunday without incident in the western state of Jalisco to elect a new governor, 124 municipal councils, and 37 local deputies, with an electoral register totalling nearly 3 million voters.

In addition, Zedillo acknowledged PRI candidate Eugenio Ruiz Orozco "for the tremendous effort undertaken during his campaign to secure remarkable support, even in a socially and politically adverse climate."

The election result in no way should be cause for disappointment to those who believe in democratic competition as the only political, peaceful, and legitimate path to gain power, the president added.

Zedillo also expressed his acknowledgement of the effort and participation of the candidates who represented the other politial parties.

The Jalisco election process "is evidence of the government's determination to scrupulously respect the decisions by the citizens of every state of the federation and to advance toward a new and improved democracy in our country," the communique points out.

On the other hand, legislators representing the PRI, PAN and the PRD agreed that the Jalisco elections represent a major progress in the country's democratic process.

PRI Deputy Rosario Guerra Diaz rejected the claim that "a shady deal" had been struck and commented that the results are evidence that the PAN is ahead in the polls, "which is very disturbing."

Interviewed at congress, the legislator commented on the need to reflect on the virtual victory of the PAN in order to understand that new conditions have developed in some regions of the country that have allowed the opposition to advance.

PRD Deputy Ramon Sosamontes believes that the results address "a dangerous rotation of power" between the PRI and the PAN.

Cecilia Romero, deputy coordinator of the PAN bloc, stressed that the people's will was respected during these elections, and the fact that the wide margin her party obtained was recognized served to attenuate the likelihood of any post-electoral conflict.

Romero stated that "this victory is evidence of the failure of the PRI's democratization airs, reason for which we expect to continue with this trend during the Guanajuato and Yucatan elections, and for society to now begin to get use to living in democracy."

PRD Legislator Jesus Padilla Padilla commented that the Jalisco results are evidence of the significant democratic steps that are taking place in Mexico and the mere fact that the PAN won these elections does not mean that it will win all the coming elections.

Parties Agree Elections 'Honest'

PA1402033295 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Feb 95

[From the "Evening News Panorama" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Approximately 2 million voters, a figure that has yet to be confirmed, have cast their votes to elect one constitutional governor, 124 mayors, and 34 deputies, 20 by simple majority and 14 by proportional representation. It was a victory for democracy in Jalisco State, according to observers from all political parties. Supporters of the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party], the PAN [National Action Party], and the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] agreed that the 12 February elections in Jalisco State were pure, clean, and honest elections. Jalisco State is proving to the country that it can hold clean, credible, and trustworthy elections.

In a few seconds we will contact our correspondent in Jalisco. I want to simply tell you that as votes from more than 50 percent of the voting stations—about 5,800 voting stations were set up—were counted, PAN gubernatorial candidate Alberto Cardenas Jimenez seems to be the virtual winner, as he garnered at least 54.46 percent of the votes cast.

As the Jalisco State Elections Council [Concejo Estatal Electoral Jaliciense] made public the report on the results of 3,153 of the 5,829 voting stations set up throughout Jalisco State on 12 February, it added that PRI's Eugenio Ruiz Orozco had reportedly garnered 35.9 percent of the votes and that PRD's Mario Saucedo had garnered 3.92 percent. During the 13 February midday session of the State Elections Council, election authorities made public the official report on the preliminary results of more than 20 percent of the urban voting stations and 20 percent of the rural voting stations. According to the results of the State Elections Council, the other parties are about to lose their legal identity as they failed to garner at least 2 percent of the total number of votes, as required by law. We are talking about at least six organizations or political parties in Jalisco.

The gubernatorial candidate of the Popular Socialist Party, Jose Santos Urbina, received only 2,799 votes or 0.23 percent. The candidate of the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction Party, Beatriz Rangel Medina, received 5,901 votes, which is 0.49 percent. Humberto Mina Escobar, candidate of the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution, received 4,701 votes, which is only 0.39

percent of the votes. The candidate of the Mexican Democratic People, (Jaime Aro Rodriguez), obtained 8,793 votes or 0.73 percent. Labor Party candidate Jaime Gomez Munguia obtained 0.89 percent. Liliana Reguera, Mexican Green Ecologist Party candidate, obtained 6,729 votes or 0.56 percent. Finally, Cesar Humberto Gonzalez, Jalisco People's Party [Partido del Pueblo de Jalisco], PPJ, candidate, obtained 0.26 percent.

As I was saying, elections were held on 12 February in Jalisco. Election day took place amid a clean and calm climate. Election observers reported very few incidents. These observers, who do not belong to any political party, assured that the 12 February elections had only minor incidents pertaining to the opening and setting up of voting stations. Some voting stations were set up later than scheduled. There were also reports that some materials were missing, especially ballots and indelible ink. Carlos Briceno Torres, coordinator of the so-called University Observers, who accredited 2,200 observers before the State Elections Council, explained that most reports have something to do with the delayed opening of certain voting stations and the shortage of indelible ink. He also maintained that his group observed 2,400 voting stations of the 80 percent set up in rural areas. According to his report, very few incidents occurred there.

Meanwhile, the spokeswoman for the Movement for Certainty [Movimiento por la Certidumbre], Moce, which accredited 675 observers, pointed out that only minor anomalies, which failed to mar the elections, were reported. She said that only a few voting stations opened later than scheduled and that some indelible ink could be easily removed.

In the meantime, Rafael Sandoval, coordinator of the Jalisco Civic Alliance [Alianza Civica Jaliciense], underscored that the more than 300 observers his group accredited reported a calm election day, although, he went on, certain aspects must be analyzed. He affirmed that the delayed opening of certain voting stations, the shortage of indelible ink, and the last-minute transfer of other voting stations were among the anomalies most recently reported by the observers, who observed 3.5 percent of the voting stations set up in metropolitan areas. These anomalies confused the voters. Moce considered that the preparation of voting station officials was insufficient.

Among other groups who accredited election observers were the National Teachers Observation Organization [Organismo Nacional de Observacion Magisterial]; the Jalisco Employers Confederation of the Mexican Republic, Coparmex; the Great Western Masonic Lodge [Gran Logia Occidental Masonica]; and the San Juan Bosco Settlers Group. The total number of elections observers amounted to approximately 4,224.

Meanwhile, Alberto Cardenas Jimenez, who is the PAN gubernatorial candidate and is the virtual winner of the 12 February elections, on 13 February said he is willing to head a pluralistic government made up of the best men and women. In an interview he granted, he added that nothing would stop them from calling people from the PRI, the PRD, and other political organizations to become part of their cabinet. He pointed out that Jalisco needs everybody to be united and urged the other political forces to work together for the sake and development of the state, because these are not times for rancor and fruitless fights. Cardenas also assessed that the virtual victory of the 12 February elections is only the first step. The most difficult part is yet to come, he added, and this is why he will need the support of all Jalisco residents to honor their state.

Eugenio Ruiz Orozco, the big loser of the 12 February elections in Jalisco State, voiced his reaction. He was the PRI gubernatorial candidate and recognized that the results of the elections failed to favor him. Ruiz announced that he will accept the verdict rendered by the voting stations, adding that he will recognize the victories of other parties. With the law on their side, the PRI supporters will defend what they obtained vote by vote. He made this statement in a brief message he sent to the Jalisco people after he became aware of the preliminary official results made public by the State Elections Council—results that show PAN's Cardenas Jimenez is winning the elections. The PRI candidate explained that he will continue to work for Jalisco and Mexico, because he believes politics is the manner in which to serve society. He also stressed his loyalty to the party that educated him. Ruiz announced he is returning to the Senate and denied he will participate in the future government of Cardenas.

Legislators Comment on Results

PA1402041895 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 14 Feb 95

[Report by Victor Manuel Mejia, Marcela Gutierrez, and Marisela Palacio from the "Evening News Panorama" newscast—passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Unidentified announcer] Victor Manuel Mejia has a report on reaction from legislators of the various political parties on the victory of the National Action Party [PAN] in Jalisco State:

[Mejia] Good afternoon. The PAN victory in the Jalisco elections confirms that the peaceful road toward democracy is open, as is the opinion of various political parties.

The representative of the Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD] at the Legislative Assembly, Pedro Penalosa, has said the Jalisco results are so clear that there can be no talk about any kind of arrangement but about a citizens' victory over authoritarianism and the old PRI cart:

[Penalosa] "I believe the PRI people must understand that things have changed in the country and that they are going to lose elections. They should get ready for that eventuality. This is the way to be in the government. I believe the days of total PRI victories as part of Mexico's folklore are over."

[Mejia] Jose Espina, of PAN, has said the delay in announcing the official outcome of the Jalisco elections is a result of the resistance by aged PRI members to accept defeat and of the fact that electoral organizations still controlled by the PRI lack the will to admit defeat.

[Espina] "PAN insists there are the tools and the technology to prepare the necessary systems to give results almost immediately, on elections day. I believe what happened here is clear evidence of either a lack of will or capability."

[Mejia] Erick Moreno, of the PRI bench in the Legislative Assembly, has said his party will respect the legitimate results of the Jalisco elections, win or lose, although it seems the results will demonstrate punishment voting from the troubled people of Jalisco against the PRI.

[Announcer] At the Chamber of Deputies, PAN states the Jalisco victory is not the result of arrangements but, rather, a positive campaign by PAN's candidate, Alberto Cardenas. Marcela Gutierrez has a report:

[Gutierrez] At the Chamber of Deputies, PAN has stated the victory in the Jalisco elections is not the result of preelection arrangements but, rather, a positive campaign waged by candidate Alberto Cardenas.

Cecilia Romero, deputy coordinator of the PAN bench at the Chamber, has denied PAN is a vote-chasing party:

[Romero] "We won. The people voted for PAN. Let no one say this [words indistinct], because we all know of the negative campaign waged by the PRI [words indistinct] in Jalisco."

[Gutierrez] The PAN deputy said in an interview the federal government has been respectful of the electoral process in Jalisco and has described the fact there are no postelectoral conflicts as a good sign for the next six years. She has said PAN is preparing to win gubernatorial elections to take place in the next few months in Guanajuato, Yucatan, and Baja California. She has said PAN will go all the way to win the 28 May Yucatan elections, which, it is believed, will be very competitive:

[Announcer] Rodrigo Briceno, PRI's social affairs secretary in Jalisco, has said the PRI received a punishment vote in that state. Marisela Palacio has the details:

[Palacio] The PRI is beginning to pay for the economic crisis. The PRI in Jalisco has received a punishment vote from the people of that state who are unhappy with the explanations for the explosions of 1992 or the death of Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampos. This statement was said by Rufino Briceno Garcia, the PRI's social affairs secretary in Jalisco. He believes the unofficial electoral results so far indicate the people of Jalisco cast unmeditated votes under the influence of the factors mentioned here. He has said that the PRI has not failed the people, that Eugenio Ruiz Orozco was a good candidate, and that the PRI people doubt the opposition is prepared to suitably govern Jalisco, if their triumph is confirmed.

[Briceno] "The people sometimes think they need a change and go for a change with closed eyes. I believe some people have spoken of a punishment vote in this case. The people wanted a change, but we feel changes should be for the better. I believe the opposition is not prepared, because they have never held a post."

[Palacio] Briceno was interviewed in Mexico City. He added that if the final count indicates the PRI was defeated, his party will acknowledge the opposition's victory, if it was legal. He has said the PRI will have to work harder with deeds more than with words so that what happened in Jalisco does not happen in other states.

Paper Detects Political Watershed

95CA0117A Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 7 Feb 95

[Commentary by Alberto Aziz Nassif, political sociologist on the faculty of the Mexico City Center for Advanced Research and Studies in Social Anthropology: "A New Political Map"; received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] The country has made a bumpy and unexpected entrance into a new phase of its lengthy political transition. The collapse of the second Mexican miracle, which was triggered by the financial crisis, has created a polarized, ambiguous political environment. An opportunity to transform the political system has opened up, and at the same time sectors that do not want to pay or do not accept the price of reform are displaying inertia or creating obstacles.

The old profiles and reference points that used to serve as guides for political identities and civic decisions have grown almost completely blurred during this new stage. The information that was used to assess and establish a hierarchy of power relationships has now changed. As Norbert Lechner would say, our political mapmaking is in crisis, and the new trends and contours are urgently in need of identification.

For years we were accustomed to seeing our political system undergo corrective reforms to maintain the regime of the party of the State. What is needed now is to alter the magnitude of the reform. The time for postponements has come and gone, and the countdown has begun. We still have a chance to put together a reform so that we can move forward and envisage a future with a democratic order. But we need to act swiftly, because lost time, a lack of consensus, or dilatory obstacles will be paid for in lack of governability, both in the regions and in the country at large.

During the past six-year term decisions were made that exhausted authoritarian presidentialism's long-range deadlines and buffers of legitimacy. What it opted for was spectacular publicity coups, the exclusion of significant forces, the postponement of reform, and the top-down management of post-election conflicts, until the situation reversed and the country lived through a year, 1994, marked by the highest degree of uncertainty that can be remembered in decades. The long peace of Mexican authoritarianism was breached.

To interpret the results of 21 August as a comeback by authoritarianism is a mistake. One might judge that this big a vote for PRI would make major changes unnecessary, and one might easily fall prey once more to the temptation of postponing a sweeping reform of the State.

Such thinking is obsolete; the timing and pace of this administration's credibility and structure have been radically altered. Who would have imagined that 20 days into the term an economic crisis would arise, one that in a few short hours put the country and the government on a bitter road back to the Third World and tossed the economic glories of the Salinas years onto the trash heap?

The indications on the old map of hierarchies and connections between the president and PRI have changed. This structure, which constituted the basic element of presidentialist governability, has been changed: the president has kept his distance from his party's inner workings, and the paradox is that the party is mired in a crisis typical of a losing, not a winning party. The signals for running the party, which used to be remote-controlled from Los Pinos, have faded and are practically not to be seen on Insurgentes Norte Avenue. The danger is that top-down discipline has begun to fragment, and the caciques, both big-time and regional, are replacing the president's mandate. Presidential detachment is necessary, but some fine-tuning is also needed so that the PRI leadership toes the line on the reform (this remains to be seen).

Another take on 21 August and the current situation is that the millions of votes represented a citizen plebiscite for peace and stability, which are essential for a democratic transition. If this assumption is correct, then the new map tells us that the reform of the State is necessarily predicated on new spaces and counterweights. President Zedillo has begun to mold a political discourse in favor of the country's democratization. This decision by the president creates a space that needs to be filled with an agenda of consensus-building among the political forces. For the time being there is an inclusive relationship with the parties, and at the same time Congress is starting to become more consequential, no longer just as a sounding board but as a necessary, pluralistic check and balance in government.

The colors of the political map, which has changed radically in recent years, show a pluralistic country whose political parties have different representations and degrees of competitiveness. The limits to the possibility of voting in another party have been shattered, thus putting an end to the reasoning that the less important a popularly elected post is, the more likely the opposition is to fill it. Electoral competition is greater the more important the territory is. To continue ruling out the possibility of voting in another party is to opt for violence. Tabasco and Chiapas are still pending; Jalisco is next Sunday; there will soon be elections in Guanajuato, Yucatan, and Baja California, and the grievances of the Party of the Democratic Revolution could be joined by those of the National Action Party.

The new political map needs to reflect the actual contours of a country that is moving towards democracy against a backdrop of stability, a balance among the branches of government, the rule of law, and the possibility of voting in another party. Reinforcing this path represents the only possibility of warding off the dangers and the interests that could destabilize the country and halt the transition.

Legislative Commission Urges Resuming Chiapas Talks

PA1402044295 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0142 GMT 14 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mexico City, 13 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The Legislative Commission for Dialogue and Conciliation in Chiapas today urged the Mexican Government and the armed group that operates in southeastern Mexico to resume the talks that will bring about a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Its members agreed on the need to immediately address "the legitimate causes of social discontent existing in Chiapas State," and believed that efforts should be made to find a political solution.

"The legislative commission should continue and intensify its contacts with the different players and sectors involved in the Chiapas conflict to promote a comprehensive solution of the problems that gave rise to it," one of its proposals stated.

In a news conference, ruling party Senator Oscar Lopez Velarde said the commission members agreed to continue their work to promote a political solution to the conflict and an honorable, just, and definitive peace.

The commission, formed by the four parties represented in congress, has received the support of all the legislative blocs to continue its work, the senator said.

Lopez Velarde said that over the weekend they met with the government secretary and with San Cristobal de las Casas Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia, who also heads the National Mediation Commission (Conai).

He explained that in the meeting with Government Secretary Esteban Moctezuma Barragan, they agreed to schedule a meeting with President Ernesto Zedillo to analyze the situation in Chiapas. [passage omitted]

In Tuxtla Gutierrez, capital of Chiapas, Governor Eduardo Robledo Rincon said this is the time to act calmly and assume our role with determination and courage, making an extra effort to achieve peace.

The people of Chiapas should "stand on their feet and adopt a courageous and prudent attitude in favor of peace and reconciliation in this region," the governor stated. He said he is convinced that a political solution to the conflict can be found through dialogue, allowing for the building of the lasting peace, justice, and development everyone needs.

Amado Avendano Figueroa, former Chiapas gubernatorial candidate, reported this Monday that a group of unidentified individuals entered the house of one of his relatives in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas. They stole the originals of the communiques the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army] sent to the local newspaper EL TIEMPO, whose director is Avendano Figueroa.

The former candidate of the opposition Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) said he will not file any complaint with the authorities.

The alleged theft occurred in the house of his sister-in-law Victoria Villafuerte Blanco, from where the thieves also took a communications radio, a computer, other documents, and 50,000 new pesos in cash (about $9,000). [passage omitted]

Legislators of the Mexican congress are analyzing the possibility of summoning on Wednesday a special session to analyze the presidential initiative on an amnesty law to resolve the Chiapas conflict. Sources of the Chamber of Deputies reported this and commented that efforts are being made at this time to have Congress help achieve a political solution to the conflict.

Avendano: 'President Made Decision Under Pressure by U.S.'

BR1302141495 Madrid EL MUNDO in Spanish 13 Feb 95 p 18

[Interview with Amado Avendano, "rebel" governor of Chiapas, by Guiomar Rovira in San Cristobal de las Casas, date not given: "I Am Asking the Spanish Not To Leave Us on Our Own and To Help Us"—first paragraph is EL MUNDO introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] From his hideout, Amedo Avendano, the "rebel" governor of Chiapas, has asked the Spanish not to leave the Mexicans on their own and to help them return to a democratic system. Avendano, for whom an arrest warrant has been issued, emphasized that repression cannot stop the advance of democratization in Mexico.

[EL MUNDO] What do you think the Zedillo government's strategy is in the recent events in Chiapas?

[Avendano] What this government is currently doing is to intimidate. It is being supported in this task by an enormous amount of government publicity that does not cease to downgrade and discredit the "Zapatists," who are at the heart of this struggle for democracy, justice, and freedom. To do this they will even go so far as to spill blood, as already happened with the attack in Guadalupe Tepeyac.

[EL MUNDO] What is the purpose of your visit to Tabasco?

[Avendano] I am going to a meeting in Villahermosa. There we are going to reach an agreement with Tabasco leader Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (who is a candidate for governor) and with the leaders of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) in Veracruz in order to reach agreements with the civilian resistance movement that is trying to cope with the crisis. (On his trip Avendano was accompanied by "perredista" deputies in order to prevent his arrest—EL MUNDO editor's note).

[EL MUNDO] How do you see the future in Chiapas?

[Avendano] First of all there will be a crisis, but then calm will return and then the people, who have always been able to get organized in every cyclical crisis, will pick their things back up and will continue to move on. I think that the president made this decision under pressure by the leadership of his own party and the Army, and obviously by speculators, at home and abroad, mainly in the United States.

[EL MUNDO] What do you think of the fact that Subcommander Marcos has been identified?

[Avendano] I am still not convinced that the person they say is Marcos is really him. In any case, I do not think that doing away with Marcos will mean the end of the movement. A movement has thousands of heads, not just Marcos'.

During the 10 years of organization in the jungle Marcos' leadership has done very well, and I think that now these indigenous human groups will take action on their own behalf and look for their own leaders to guide them. I am sure that this struggle will continue until its final consequences.

[EL MUNDO] There are now 2,734 arrest warrants out against people allegedly linked to the EZLN [Zapatist Army of National Liberation] in Chiapas. Is this the beginning of a war against the organized civilian movement?

[Avendano] The arguments put forward by the public prosecutor's office are reminiscent of the 1970's, when crimes were made up in order to prosecute alleged guerrilla fighters.

It is also cyclical in another way. Since 1968 many people have been left behind here, as has a lot of bitterness which in a short time has become organized, thus increasing the bitterness felt by the people. The government is once again using the same tactics, namely inventing crimes, fabricating cases, and creating this climate of anxiety among the people.

[EL MUNDO] What do you think of Zedillo's announcement that the Zapatist leadership is not indigenous, but comes from an urban movement dating back to 1969?

[Avendano] Those are arguments used by the government to try to discredit the insurgents, but we Mexicans are one, and in the remote possibility that these people are outsiders, humanity is still the same. As human beings we are obliged to help those who suffer, whether in Chiapas, in Chihuahua, or anywhere else.

[EL MUNDO] What do you think of the charges and harassment against Bishop Samuel Ruiz of San Cristobal de las Casas?

[Avendano] The government does not want any criticism of the traditional system and Samuel Ruiz Garcia has been the main critic of this system for 30 years.

[EL MUNDO] In what sort of shape was your "rebel" government when the government hostilities were renewed?

[Avendano] While it is still weak as regards its consolidation as a government, it is nevertheless strong because the people are anxious to have a governor who stems from the will of the people. If this is not the case, then it is natural for the people revive civil resistance with greater strength, until such time as it is efficient, which will finally force the government to yield.

[EL MUNDO] How will you proceed, given that you are persecuted by the law?

[Avendano] We will request help from the Justice Ministry in order to protect us from the police, which is trying to implement the arrest warrants. The repressions have already reached us.

[EL MUNDO] What will you ask of the Spanish?

[Avendano] I am appealing to all the peoples of the world, especially our brothers in Spain, not to leave us on our own during this crucial time for democracy, justice, and freedom in Mexico. That they continue their actions vis-a-vis the Mexican Embassy and the Mexican Consulates so that in the end it will be possible for the inhabitants of Chiapas and the Mexicans to be able to live together in a climate of democracy, justice, and freedom, something we have been deprived of for so many years.

Chiapas Indians Report Clashes, Rights Violations

PA1302174395 Paris AFP in Spanish 1501 GMT 13 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] San Cristobal de Las Casas, Mexico, 13 Feb (AFP)—Peasants from Censo and Monte Libano, Ocosingo Municipality, have told the press that federal troops "clashed" with Zapatist rebels at the entrance to the town of La Estrella, resulting in "five rebels killed."

They added that numerous communities have been "surrounded" by federal military forces, who are "chasing with dogs those who out of fear" have fled into the mountains or jungle.

According to the peasants, "there has been war" since last Thursday in the communities of Ocosingo near the Lacandona Jungle, which Federal Army troops entered that same day with presidential orders to arrest the leaders of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN]. [passage omitted]

They added that, according to other peasants living in the vicinity of Agua Dulce, La Estrella, and Pani Perla, the soldiers "have raided homes and beaten up" men to ask them "about the whereabouts of the Zapatists."

In this regard, Luis Hernandez, the leader of the Independent Central Organization of Farm Workers and Peasants, said here that in the jungles of Chiapas "the Federal Army is conducting searches of private homes and illegal arrests."

He mentioned the cases of eight Tojolabales Indians, who according to Hernandez were arrested by the soldiers last Friday and were later released "with signs of torture."

He added that "at the start of this military operation it was announced that the Federal Army would help in arresting the EZLN leaders. The situation is just the opposite now and we, the Indians, have been the ones most adversely affected by the violations of our rights," Hernandez said.

Meanwhile, the peasants of Monte Libano and Censo said: "Many civilians are fleeing into the mountains, but the elderly, women, and children cannot walk for too long. There are no medicines or food either."

They added: "People had never seen the Army. There is war and they are frightened. About 300 of us are in Ocosingo unable to move because we do not like the Army." They asked: "Why do they not allow the media to come here?" [passage omitted]

Marcos Makes 'Sarcastic' Comments on Revelation of 'Real Name'

PA1302145095 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0958 GMT 13 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] San Cristobal de las Casas (Mexico), 13 Feb (DPA)—In a letter, the enigmatic "Subcommander Marcos," the leader of the Mexican EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army] guerrillas, made sarcastic comments on the "recent victory" scored by the police in uncovering his presumed real name. He did this without either denying or confirming official statements on his true identity.

"By the way, is not the new Subcommander Marcos a handsome fellow?" he asked in a letter disclosed in San Cristobal de las Casas on Sunday night. "Lately, they have been giving me the identity of all these ugly men and that has been detrimental to my female fan mail," he added in the postscript of the letter he wrote to comment on recent events in Chiapas.

The letter was dated 9 February, the day on which President Ernesto Zedillo presumably stripped the charismatic rebel leader of his mask when he identified him as Rafael Sebastian Guillen Vicente, an intellectual with a bachelor's degree and a doctorate in philosophy and sociology who was born in the port of Tampico in 1957.

"It sounds good; the port is a pretty place. I recall when I worked as a 'bouncer' at a brothel in Ciudad Madero during the time 'Quina' was doing to the regional economy what (former President Carlos) Salinas did to the stock market: inject money into it to hide the poverty," he wrote.

'Quina' is the nickname of the former Mexican oil baron, a union leader who controlled the political situation of Tamaulipas, the state where Tampico and Ciudad Madero are located, for several years. This oil baron was imprisoned by Salinas de Gortari in January 1989 when he began his administration.

"I left the port because the humidity makes me drowsy and the seafood gives me insomnia," added "Marcos." The Army has launched a massive operation through a large portion of the Lacandona Jungle since last Thursday to capture the EZLN leader.

"I have 300 bullets, so try to bring more than 299 soldiers and policemen to catch me. Everyone says I am supposed to be a good shot. Why 299 if there are 300 bullets? The last bullet is for yours truly. It turns out that one gets attached to those things, and a bullet seems to be the only comfort for such a lonely heart," he concluded.

In another document, which was also issued on Sunday night, the directorate of the EZLN defended its spokesman and military strategist. The EZLN directorate said that he has lived, eaten, and suffered with the Indians for 11 years. "We will not let anything happen to him, and if something does happen, we will not sit back and do nothing about it," it stated.

Arrest Warrant Issued Against 'Subcommander Elisa'

PA1402001695 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2120 GMT 13 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sixth District Penal Judge Fernando Andres Ortiz Cruz today issued a formal arrest warrant against Maria Gloria Benavides Guevara, also known as "Subcommander Elisa," alleged member of the Chiapas guerrillas.

Benavides, member of the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN), is being charged with association with criminal intent, rebellion, terrorism, and possession of firearms used exclusively by the armed forces.

Ortiz Cruz indicated that normal proceedings have begun, and a conclusive identification procedure will be carried out to determine positive identification since the accused also calls herself Elisa Benavides Alcocer, or Balbina Flores Flores.

Once formal imprisonment warrants were issued the accused pointed out that her defense lawyers would be Jose Antonio Becerril Nunez and Alfonso Aguilar Sinzer and that she would refrain from making any statements before meeting with her lawyers.

This past Thursday, President Ernesto Zedillo announced that the Office of the Prosecutor General had uncovered two EZLN clandestine hideouts, one in Mexico City and the other in the eastern state of Veracruz, and that an arsenal had been seized.

Zedillo stated that his attempts at a reconciliation with the EZLN, implemented even before his assumption of office on 1 December, had been met with threats to break the cease-fire, as well as by armed and violent interruptions in the municipalities of Chiapas.

Anti-EZLN Move Seen Deepening Crisis

95CA0120A Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 10 Feb 95

[Commentary by Luis Javier Garrido, member of the National Autonomous University of Mexico's Center for Social Research and the National Democratic Convention's National Council of Representatives: "The Military Solution"; received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico's main problem is its government, and Ernesto Zedillo's ill-timed announcement of a new approach to the problem of Chiapas and the country (9 January [as published]) confirms this.

1. Ernesto Zedillo's marked shifts in policy during the 10 short weeks that he has been living in Los Pinos are due not only to his political ineptitude but also to his submissiveness to the Salinas group and, by the same token, to the "system" of the party of the State. Also, the issue of Chiapas, where there are two governments and an armed insurrection, symbolizes the gravity of the situation. The new government's indecisiveness in tackling the problem has merely aggravated it. Time and again it has reaffirmed its determination to hold a dialogue but at the same time it uses force to maintain a spurious government and now, by opting for "the military solution," it is threatening not just Zapatist peasants but all Mexicans with the violence of arms.

2. By regarding the members of the EZLN [Zapatist Army of National Liberation] as criminals, not rebels, and by claiming that the discovery of separate "arsenals" in Veracruz and Mexico City and of the identity of Deputy Commander [Subcomandante] Marcos has changed things, Ernesto Zedillo is merely deceiving the nation. All Mexicans have known since 1 January 1994 that the EZLN declared war on the Mexican State, that its members are armed, and that they decided to give their lives for a cause, which is, of course, the cause of the Mexican people, as stated in the Declaration of the Lacandon Forest at the time.

Zedillo's speech in Queretaro on the 78th anniversary of the Mexican Constitution (LA JORNADA, 6 February) was correctly interpreted as an ultimatum to Chiapas peasants and to the EZLN because it was one, even though the official propagandists (and interpreters) sought later to lend it a different meaning. In the wake of statements that he is a weak leader (because of his dependency on Cordoba and Salinas) who is unable to cope with political problems (because of his ties to the "system"), Zedillo obviously tried in Queretaro to appear strong, forgetting that strength comes only from moral authority. Now he is merely continuing along the same path. Confusing authority with authoritarianism, Zedillo is threatening the people of Chiapas with the armed forces; far from creating fresh conditions for peace, he is thus giving evidence of his intransigence.

3. The plan for a "military solution," as we know, has been gradually honed on orders from Los Pinos since January 1994, and if it was not launched earlier, it was because it would obviously deepen the national crisis, as it is doing now. According to the plan, it was said as of yesterday, the insurrection could be quashed in five days (REFORMA, 9 February). This is, of course, absurd, because in spite of the advisory assistance that the Mexican military has received to combat the Indians who have taken up arms and in spite of the support that it has gotten from the Israeli, U.S., Argentine, and Guatemalan military, clearly Zedillo cannot exterminate more than half of the people of Chiapas.

4. There is not and cannot be a "military solution" in Chiapas; this must be repeated over and over again. The Zapatists are rebels, not criminals, and the government must deal with them through negotiations, not by wielding, like reactionary governments, the weapon of criminal law, as the PAN [National Action Party] attorney general, Antonio Lozano Gracia, has done in playing the sorry role he did.

5. Everyone sees the political and moral failure of Zedillo's arguments because Zedillo, like all his predecessors, is the head not of a democratic regime but of a system with a party of the State. He came to power through imposition, not legitimate means, and his economic initiatives have been disastrous for the country. Thus, he does not have the moral authority to pontificate in the name of the law, just as PRI legislators and their allies do not. The economic disaster is not going to be redressed by plunging the country into war, nor is Zedillo going to enhance his image this way, the worst image that any Mexican president has had at the outset of his term since the years of the Revolution.

6. Moreover, the financial and economic crisis is not due solely to the application of an unworkable agenda, and no one can deny the impact of "politics" on the crisis. Zedillo's "diagnosis" is a fraud, however, because he is endeavoring to blame the people for the lack of confidence among foreign investors (or speculators). The murders of Cardinal Posadas, Colosio, and Ruiz Massieu, as everyone knows, were obviously "crimes of the State," decided on probably from Los Pinos, and the origin of the armed rebellion in Chiapas is the government's violations of the Constitution. Post-election protests have been brought on by government impositions. What investor in his right mind would trust an arbitrary regime that systematically tramples on the rights of the citizenry and that, to make matters worse, has tried to deceive everyone as to the nature of the financial and economic crisis?

7. Zedillo's marked shifts in policy on various problems (and this is the worst one) stem, of course, from his own indecision and lack of independence, but they also reflect the extremely serious rifts within the ruling group: the struggle for hegemony in the new government, which the hard-line wing headed by Joseph-Marie Cordoba and Carlos Salinas seems to be winning. Hence the concern. For how long are the private feuds of the Salinas group going to keep on dictating the fate of Chiapas and the nation?

8. In recent weeks Chiapas has been trying to govern itself by pushing aside the obstacles to its development that Robledo's spurious, demagogic government represents. And while Robledo in San Cristobal lavishly squanders the funds from "the Federal Government," Amado Avendano's government "of transition in rebellion" keeps its campaign promises and, as TRANSICION, its information organ says, backs the communities that are demanding agrarian justice and respect for human rights. It has also called a Constitutional Congress, the state's only hope, for 24 February.

9. Ernesto Zedillo has not budged a single inch from the role that Cordoba and Salinas have entrusted him to play: to defend neoliberal economic policies and to pretend that Mexico already has democracy, a division of powers, justice, and the rule of law. And in spite of the disaster into which he has plunged the country, he is now, in a fit of rage, rushing into military action without caring about social peace or the economy. The Mexican people therefore have many reasons for concern, ranging from an incompetent government to ongoing corruption, but one reason is paramount: the maintenance of the status quo in the worst of its facets.

10. What is being demanded of Zedillo today is that he forget about his private interests and commitments, that he put the national interest first, that he opt for the political path, that he forsake the military option in Chiapas, and in a word that he begin doing his job and, instead of repressing the indigenous peasants, apply the law to his predecessors. With the January 1989 "quinazo" [10 Jan 89 arrest of oil workers' union leader Joaquin "La Quina" Hernandez Galicia], Salinas sought to strengthen his hand, and perhaps he did, but with the February 1995 attack on the Zapatists, Zedillo has forgotten his pledge and is digging his own grave.

If he persists along this insane path, what will be at stake will be the very fate of the current government.

Guatemala

Army Reinforces Patrols Along Border With Mexico

PA1402041095 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 13 Feb 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Guatemalan Army has reported that Guatemala has doubled its patrol along the more than 800 km of border with Mexico to prevent the entry of Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] guerrillas into Guatemalan territory as the Mexican Army is tightening its encirclement of them.

The Guatemalan Armed forces reportedly have mobilized more than 10,000 troops in the border area, that is, almost one-fourth of its 43,900 troop force.

Army Chief of Staff General Marco Antonio Gonzalez, who is supervising the operation, said yesterday: the confrontation in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas has worsened, and it is necessary to keep illegal immigrants from entering Guatemala.

The soldiers have been placed in strategic sites to avoid mishaps, Gonzalez noted.

President Ramiro de Leon Carpio has said that when he learned about the uncovering of EZLN arsenals in three Mexican cities he established contact with Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon to offer his cooperation.

The Guatemalan Army operation to protect its border with Mexico is to keep both the Mexican Army and the Zapatists from entering our territory, President De Leon Carpio said.

Gonzalez said that they are guarding the border in the departments of San Marcos, Huehuetenango, Quiche, and Peten, in Guatemala's west and northern regions.

The mobilization did not require a big effort because it is in those departments where the Guatemalan guerrillas maintain most of their forces and for this reason, the military forces have a large-scale presence in the region. [passage omitted]

'Character' of Human Rights Abuses Changing

95P20500 Mexico City CERIGUA WEEKLY BRIEFS in English 17 Jan 95

[Published by the Cerigua News Agency, affiliated with the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG); received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Guatemala City, 12 Jan—The Mutual Support Group for Families of the Disappeared (GAM) recorded 1,488 human rights violations in 1994, according to their year-end report. A breakdown of the violations reveals that the character of violations has changed since the 1980s when massacres and forced disappearances were common.

Kidnappings still occur, but the victims usually turn up—dead or alive, said GAM president Nineth Montenegro. Ten years ago, when someone disappeared they would never be seen again, she said. According to the GAM report, the way politically motivated attacks are carried out now makes it hard to distinguish them from common crime. Nonetheless, the group reported 130 political killings in 1994.

The human rights group says 1994 was characterized by a climate of insecurity due to the inefficiency of the National Police. Responsibility for internal security has fallen increasingly on the army as a result, contributing to the militarization of the country, the group says.

GAM will present the year-end report to the United Nations in Geneva in February, where the U.N. Human Rights Commission will review the country's human rights rating. GAM and other groups are calling on the commission to change Guatemala's rating to reflect systematic abuses.

Defense Minister Mario Enriquez announced January 11 that the army will send Lt. Col. Otto Noack and Maj. Otto Springler Kobles to Geneva in February to defend the government before the U.N. Human Rights Commission.

Human Rights Official on Murder Investigation

95P20499 Mexico City CERIGUA WEEKLY BRIEFS in English 17 Jan 95

[Published by the Cerigua News Agency, affiliated with the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG); received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Guatemala City, 13 Jan—An investigation by the Archbishop's Human Rights Office (ODHA) has uncovered the identity of the government official who ordered the December 19 killing of Belgian priest Alfonso Stessel Fons, according to ODHA spokesman Ronalth Ochaeta.

Ochaeta didn't release the official's name but said his office would turn over its information to the Public Ministry. He said Marco Tulio Alvarez Salazar, a young gang member arrested January 11, participated in the murder along with three others. But the youths were carrying out orders by the unnamed government official, Ochaeta said.

According to Ochaeta, the ODHA knows who ordered Stessel's murder as well as who actually pulled the trigger. Initial reports indicated the Catholic priest was beaten to death during a nativity march, but later versions say he was beaten and shot to death on his way home from the march.

Police reports have suggested that the youths killed Stessel to steal a tape recorder, but 300 quetzals the priest had in his pocket were left untouched. Ochaeta accused the police of irresponsibility in their investigation. He said Stessel had been investigating an attack by the unnamed official on another person when he was murdered.

Nicaragua

Nationwide Strike Hinders Meat, Dairy Shipments

PA1102153395 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 6 Feb 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Carolina Garcia and Tathiana Rothschuh with a contribution by Lenin Palacios]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nicaragua is losing between 7 million and 9 million cordobas a day because of the national producers strike which started yesterday in Region 5, as groups of hundreds of producers experimented with the use of checkpoints to prevent products from being sent to market.

It is estimated that with approximately 50,000 producers on strike nationwide, the Nicaraguan people will be deprived of approximately 345,000 pounds [as published], 131,000 gallons of milk, and 54,800 dozen eggs, according to estimates by independent analysts who base their estimates on daily overall production figures provided by the government.

In 1994, according to the government, the country produced 20 million dozen eggs; 126 million pounds of meat, of which 55 million pounds were exported, earning about $60 million; and 48 million gallons of milk.

The farming sector, analysts add, generates 25 percent of the country's GDP, which means that this sector earns $450 million a year. Therefore, a strike in the sector will generate daily losses of approximately $1.2 million.

Transportation, basic services, and banks also may be affected by the strike because the farming sector is the most economically active sector in the country.

Early signs of the strike began yesterday in Juigalpa, where at dawn groups of up to 200 producers peacefully established checkpoints to prevent farmers from going to the slaughterhouses and to Managua.

Producers: No Other Solution

Gilberto Baez, who was in charge of the checkpoint between Juigalpa and the Amerrisque slaughterhouse, told BARRICADA that the producers are urging people to understand the severe measure they have adopted "because of unfair economic policies that are threatening to strip us of our properties."

Another checkpoint, manned by approximately 300 producers, was established at La Curva Muhan, where there is no alternate route for products coming out of Nueva Guinea, Rama, and Muelle de los Bueyes, or for products coming in from Bluefields.

Days earlier, the National Farming Commission [Comision Nacional Agropecuaria—CNA] used the radio to broadcast warnings for farmers from the interior [profundidad] not to ship cheese, cattle, milk, dairy products, corn, and beans to avoid running the risk of losing their products.

BARRICADA has been informed, through members of the CNA, that over the past few days the directors of Banades [National Development Bank] have initiated legal action against certain producers. According to strike leaders, if the government does not yield to the producers' just demands, the strike could be stepped up and measures could be adopted to stop all traffic on the country's main highways.

Meanwhile at several meetings in various departments last weekend, the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] fully supported the measures adopted by the sector.

Tension in Jinotega

To add to the tensions caused by the national production strike, drivers in Jinotega have given the government an ultimatum: It must not remove the MCT [expansion unknown] delegation in the departmental capital, "because this would represent complete regression in terms of departmentalization."

Producers, coffee growers, cattle breeders, and drivers have joined to support Jinotega's departmentalization and, in turn, would oppose the measure.

Panama

Spanish Envoy Cited on Resolving Rafters Crisis

PA1402004995 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Feb 95 p 2

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[FBIS Translated Text] Spanish Ambassador to Panama Miguel Garcia-Mina has said the international community should make an effort, within its capability, to help resolve the crisis of the Cuban rafters.

Spain has accepted a group of 38 rafters from camps in Panama for humanitarian reasons. They will travel to Madrid on 12 February. Another 72 Cubans were also flown to Spain last December.

"These people, who are not criminals, are going through rough times, the reason why the international community should, within its capabilities, make some effort to find a solution to this situation," the ambassador has said.

The U.S. Army has started the return operation for the 7,400 rafters from the banks of the Panama Canal to the Guantanamo base, because the agreement signed between Panama and the United States limiting the Cubans' stay to six months expires on 6 March.

So far, 4,000 rafters have been returned to Guantanamo. The Cubans have said they do not want to return to that U.S. naval base, because their human rights were violated there.

The ambassador has said the problem of the rafters "has tremendous human overtones. One has to remember that they left Cuba on rafts and found no freedom afterward, although they are being fed, and are hoping to attain it soon."

"Different kinds of efforts may be made to help them. Spain has initially accepted 72 Cubans and 38 more now. It would be good for them to have other alternatives. Someone could offer them something to resolve their situation," the ambassador added.

One woman is among the group of 38 rafters traveling to Spain. The KLM flight will take them to Amsterdam, from where they will board another flight to Madrid. They will depart from the Tocumen terminal next Sunday at 2145 hours (0245 GMT). Their relatives in Spain will receive them, and those without relatives will be taken to a shelter according to reports.

The diplomat has said the international community, when faced with such humanitarian situations, should consider the problem in depth. Ambassador Garcia-Mina has also said he feels most rafters had their hearts "set on going to the United States when they left Cuba, so allowing them into that country is the ideal solution for them."

ARI Administrator Views Reversion, Repeats Resignation

PA0902210895 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Feb 95

[From the "Telemetro Reports" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to current ARI [Interoceanic Region Authority] administrator Jose Chen Barria, the coming four years will be critical for the reversion process of Panama Canal land, housing, and waters. Chen Barria said that he shares the same concern expressed by U.S. Southern Command Commander Barry McCaffrey on the reversion of Canal properties to the country.

[Begin Chen Barria recording] That is why I also feel that the U.S. Government, especially the Army, has a moral commitment for what it must transfer to us over the next four years. The United States will be able to withstand the international criticism over the reversion, but we, all Panamanians, will pay for the consequences of how we run the Canal. [applause] [end recording]

Chen Barria made the aforementioned statements during the monthly assembly of the Lions Club, where he reiterated that he will resign from the position he is holding.

Discusses Decontamination of U.S. Bases

PA1002171995 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 10 Feb 95 p A-1

[Article by A. Sanchez Belisle]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States is not obligated to decontaminate the military areas that will be reverting to Panama by the year 2000, Jose de los Santos Chen Barria, director of the Interoceanic Region Authority (ARI), said yesterday.

"The U.S. Congress already passed a law stating it has no obligation to clean up any military base abroad," Chen Barria said during the weekly meeting of the Lions Club of Panama during which he lectured on the future of the reverted areas.

According to Chen Barria, U.S. defense sites along the Panama Canal contain contaminants, such as stored fuel, solvents, ammunition remains, undetonated explosives, toxic waste, and pressured gas.

"We need to highten our awareness about this problem because we need to face it and negotiate with the United States to ensure the reversion of uncontaminated defense sites to Panama, Chen Barria said.

In his speech, Chen Barria reaffirmed he will resign his post as soon as the plenum of the Legislative Assembly approves the reforms to the ARI law that the executive branch proposed.

"The modifications to the ARI law basically seek to place the organization in the hands of the executive branch, remove its current administrator, and replace its board of directors," Chen Barria noted.

He also voiced support for recent statements by General Barry McCaffrey, chief of the Southern Command of the Pentagon [title as published], that negotiations for the transfer of the Canal to the Panamanian Government are at a "critical moment."

"I think the U.S. Government and the Army in particular feel a moral commitment toward what they have to revert to us in the next four years," Chen Barria pointed out.

President Sanctions IHRE, INTEL Privatization Laws

PA1002164495 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Feb 95

[From the "Telemetro reports" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ernesto Perez Balladares, accompanied by Legislative Assembly President Balbina Herrera and the secretary generals of IHRE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] and INTEL [National Institute of Telecommunications], today sanctioned the recently approved laws regarding these two institutions. The ceremony was carried out at the Atlapa Convention Center in the presence of members of the cabinet, directors of autonomous entities, and a large number of IHRE and INTEL workers.

Argentina

Government Suspends Arms Sales to Peru, Ecuador

PY1302224395 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2228 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Feb (TELAM)—According to the Foreign Ministry, the Argentine Government announced today that it will not authorize the export of arms or war materiel to Peru and Ecuador.

An official communique says that Argentina, "in accordance with its special responsibility as a guarantor of the 1942 Rio de Janeiro Protocol, makes public its decision not to grant any license to export arms or war materiel to any of the countries in conflict."

The document says that "Argentina is determined to continue supporting the diplomatic efforts currently under way to quickly put an end to the conflict between Peru and Ecuador."

The Argentine resolution agrees with positions adopted by Brazil, Chile, and the United States, the other three guarantors of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol.

In was reported that Argentina decided to take this position during the Rio de Janeiro guarantor countries' negotiations.

Menem Views Ecuadoran-Peruvian Conflict

PY1402120495 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1924 GMT 12 Feb 95

[Interview with President Carlos Menem by unidentified reporters for the Media Secretariat program "Interviews," broadcast "in excerpts of five or six minutes" on 12 February by Buenos Aires television networks]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Reporter] Mr. president, thank you for the invitation. We were thinking that one of the most important issues this week is a domestic issue. But this issue is linked to what happens in the continent, the great Latin American problems today: The Mexican political and economic crisis, and the Peruvian-Ecuadoran conflict. What do you think of President (Alberto) Fujimori's role in this conflict? How do you think the Mexican crisis can be solved? What is the basis of that crisis? How can it affect Argentina?

[Menem] With respect to the Peruvian-Ecuadoran conflict, we must take into account the attitude of both presidents: It is obvious that both want peace, but they cannot agree on a common position. The guarantor countries, through their representatives, are making a great effort to solve this senseless conflict between two sister nations, two neighboring countries that have not been able to solve their dispute, their quarrel that has been going on for a long time. I think this is the right moment to find a definitive solution to this problem that has been going on for many years, for decades, for more than a century. But so far positions are irreconcilable. Ecuador has some positions in a territory Peru says it is theirs. Of course the Ecuadorans say the territory is theirs. The guarantor countries have proposed various documents. Peru accepted one of them, but that document was rejected by Ecuador. The guarantor country representatives are again meeting to work out a new peace proposal that must be considered by the conflicting parties.

The fact is that there are too many victims already, many young men from both countries. There are reports of 300 or 400 victims of this devastating situation. I expect that soon the presidents and their peoples will understand that war is not the appropriate path for solving this type of conflict. I listened with alarm this morning that Ecuador, Ecuadoran authorities, are teaching their people to dig trenches and to store essential things to survive a larger conflict because they fear an attack on the large Ecuadoran cities. I expect they will not go to that extreme. But Ecuador is taking all precautions.

[Reporter] In the Mexican case, Mr. President, do you think President [Ernesto] Zedillo's decision to launch a strong attack against the Zapatist Army is correct? Will that help to consolidate Mexico's economy?

[Menem] I think so. I have been saying for a long time, based on my studies, on my experience, that you cannot solve the country's economic problem unless you have political stability. There is a saying that the economy follows politics. I talked about this issue with former Mexican president Carlos Salinas de Gortari. I talked about it again at Zedillo's inauguration. I said it was essential for Mexico's future to defeat this insurgency, that the only thing it was doing was to scare people. It is not possible to have a Mexico divided in two: On one hand the insurgency, subversion, in the jungles, and taking practically the entire zone in Chiapas; while on the other hand a government elected by the people. I think the Mexican people have reacted. They know who this famous Subcommander Marcos is. We were told an offensive to definitively control this situation started today. There is no other way out for Mexico. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Mr. President, about the Peruvian-Ecuadoran crisis. Is it true that Peru is somewhat mad at you over the way you treated the Ecuadoran president in Argentina? Could it be that Fujimori is a little jealous?

[Menem] No. Fujimori called me after Sixto Duran-Ballen's visit to tell me that they had accepted the guarantor countries' proposal, which Ecuador rejected. If Fujimori comes today we will receive him with the same honors, as is appropriate. We received Duran-Ballen well, and we will receive Fujimori, or any other president for that matter, just as well. We cannot close our doors to anyone. The Peruvians have no reason to be annoyed. If they are, they should also be annoyed with the Brazilians and the Chileans. Duran-Ballen was also received by those countries' presidents. [passage omitted]

OAS Head Trusts in Argentina's 'Economic Strength'

PY1302225795 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1918 GMT 12 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Feb (TELAM)—OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria Trujillo has expressed trust in the strength of Argentina's economy.

"We all trust in Argentina's economic strength," Gaviria said, adding that he thinks Argentine "will fulfill all its financial commitments."

Gaviria was interviewed by the television network "Todo Noticias" on unemployment in Argentina, only a few hours after arriving in the country.

Gaviria said: "The unemployment situation is a consequence of Argentina's deep restructuring process," adding that "these unemployment levels have been a constant in countries with accelerated modernization processes."

Gaviria said: "The panic that swept over markets was not anticipated by anyone." Gaviria talked about existing doubts about the future of the continent's economies, adding that "the situation will return to normal."

With respect to the conflict involving Peru and Ecuador, the OAS secretary said that he hoped there would be "a quick and peaceful solution" to the conflict, adding that he thought "the position adopted by U.S. President Bill Clinton and the other members of the Rio de Janeiro Pact" was very important.

Gaviria said he hoped that "the authorities of the countries in conflict will reach an understanding soon."

Gaviria arrived at Ezeiza International Airport on an American Airlines flight. He was welcomed by a group of Argentine officials headed by Education and Culture Minister Jorge Rodriguez.

The OAS secretary general will begin his official activities in Argentina at 1100 on 13 February, when he will meet with Social Development Secretary Eduardo Amadeo in his offices.

At 1200 Gaviria will preside over the opening ceremony of the 26th meeting of the Inter-American Council for Education, Culture, and Science, which will be attended by the continents' education ministers.

The deliberations will be at the Buenos Aires Sheraton Hotel and will last until 15 February.

President Carlos Menem will officially inaugurate the inter-American forum.

The meeting's main topic will be "the function of integral culture, with emphasis on its contribution to overcoming poverty in the context of education, science, and technology," the education minister said.

Other issues will be "ways to fight poverty starting from the educational, cultural, and scientific policies implemented by OAS member countries."

The deliberations will be attended by Education and Culture Minister Jorge Rodriguez; Domingo Liotta, technical and scientific affairs secretary; Culture Secretary Mario O'Donell; provincial education ministers and secretaries; and national and provincial legislators.

Bolivia

Overflight Permission Granted to Ecuadoran Military Plane

PY1402004895 La Paz Radio Cadena Nacional Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] I am handing you over now to our colleague, Jose Luis Aliaga, who is at the Erbol [Bolivian Radio Schools] newsroom.

[Aliaga] Thank you, Martin, and friends of "Encuentro Nacional" newscast. I have just received Communique No. 03/95 from the Public Relations Division of the Armed Forces Joint Staff, which reads as follows:

In order to clear up the information published in the local press, the Armed Forces Joint Staff informs the public that on 30 January 1995, in response to a request from the Ecuadoran Air Force, the General Command of the Bolivian Air Force granted the latter authorization for a C-130H aircraft to overfly Bolivian airspace, in strict compliance with regulations for overflight operations by foreign military aircraft within Bolivian territory. These regulations stem from international reciprocity treaties that are in keeping with public international law. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship and the National Defense Ministry were duly informed about this. This treatment is granted upon request to any country with which Bolivia has a special agreement.

This is the text of the communique released by the Relations Division of the Armed Forces Joint Staff concerning the overflight of an Ecuadoran aircraft over Bolivian territory and the complaint Peru filed against the Bolivian Government following this event. That is all, Martin.

[Announcer] Thank you, Jose Luis.

Infiltration of Drug Trafficking in Armed Forces Noted

PY1302085495 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 21 Jan 95 p 1

[Editorial: "The Infiltration of Drug Trafficking"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Because of the nature of its activities, drug trafficking is compelled to operate underground, because all countries consider it linked to crime and, consequently, they fight it because they are sure they are safeguarding the moral and physical health of human beings. In a few words, this is the reality of a harmful phenomenon that is threatening to deteriorate the social structure of most nations of the planet.

Drug trafficking does not resort only to underground operations. It also does all in its power to obtain the protection of the circles that are close to power. The large amounts of money available to drug trafficking facilitate this goal. In fact, lately it has become usual to read reports on the alleged complicity of officials with drug trafficking. Consequently, it is not by chance that corruption, which has spread so much in the current world, has much to do with covering up those illegal businesses.

It should be pointed out that no country can expect to reach real stability without morally sound institutions that are highly reliable in the eyes of citizens. Yet it is precisely the members of those institutions who are harassed by drug trafficking, because with their acquiescence and toleration to conceal its activities, drug trafficking can occur without raising any suspicion, thus becoming practically invulnerable to the investigation of specialized organs.

This is what is meant whenever one says that drug trafficking can undermine the foundations of society. As far as our country is concerned, unfortunately, these are not mere conjectures. For example, in relatively recent times, some institutions like the Armed Forces could claim for themselves a certificate of good conduct that needed no verification. Yet recent events lead to the conclusion that the bands operating in Bolivia have also infiltrated the military sector.

In the wake of the arrest of a Bolivian Navy officer, and of the seizure of almost half a tonne of cocaine, the Defense Ministry said that Law No 1008, whose provisions have been criticized by various sectors, should remain in force, because if despite its severity it cannot have an impact on crime, something much worse could be expected if it were modified. We believe that this reasoning is not totally right, because what has surfaced in the specific case of Captain Justiniano and his accomplices is the use and abuse of a military institution which, as part of the Armed Forces, is usually reluctant to conduct the investigations that are performed without major obstacles within civilian society.

No one who is aware of the significance that the Armed Forces have for the country can ignore the damage that they have suffered through the misconduct of some of their members, because it is not just any group but an institution marked by a strict formation, and whose objective is to guarantee the national security.

It would be a meager consolation to think that what has just been discovered in our country is something common in other nations. The Special Antinarcotics Force (FELCN) has in its hands an affair in which there can be no restrictions but a strict investigation to punish those responsible and convince those who think that the Armed Forces can be hit by drug trafficking without running any risk.

Brazil

Cardoso Blames Speculation for Mexican, Argentine Crises

PY1402153395 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 10 Feb 95 Business & Finances Section p 13

[Article by Marcia Carmo]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Diamantina, Minas Gerais—President Fernando Henrique Cardoso does not consider the difficulties faced by Argentine banks—which are said to reflect the Mexican crisis—are of concern. He calmly said: "It is the result of speculation. Argentina will not repeat the situation in Mexico. There are differences between the two economies." He reiterated that the Brazilian economy is doing well and that the Real Plan was drafted on bases that are different from those of the Cavallo Plan, which is directly linked to the dollar. Cardoso confirmed he will not modify the exchange policy. [passage omitted]

He said: "In Argentina they tied the peso to the dollar. It was a law. In Brazil we did not use the same mechanism. We did not compromise the real to the dollar. This is not our base. Despite all that, however, what is occurring in Mexico will not happen in Argentina."

The Argentine press has been publishing news on risks the middle-sized and small banks are running of going bankrupt. The press says these banks are not honoring commitments with their clients under the excuse that they are victims of the Mexican disaster.

President Cardoso emphasized on 10 February a motto he used as a candidate: Fighting to maintain the inflation rate under zero will not be a priority in his administration.

In his opinion, Brazil and Brazilian enterprises must give special attention to education, health, agriculture, labor, and security. He represented these five points as the fingers of a hand during his campaign for the presidency of the Republic.

Scientists, Industrialists Visit PRC Space Agency

PY1302084795 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2245 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sao Jose dos Campos, Sao Paulo, 10 Feb (AE)—A delegation of industrialists and scientists of the National Institute of Space Research (INPE) left on 9 February to visit the PRC space agency where the China-Brazil Earth Resources Satellite (CBERS) is being manufactured. The objective of the group is to check on acceptance for Brazilian-made parts used in the satellite's structure. This joint program will manufacture, and put into orbit, two remote sensoring satellites in the next three years.

According to Carlos Santana, manager of the project at INPE, the engineering model of the first satellite was started in the PRC. The stage for integration with the Brazilian parts will begin in March, when the material will be shipped to Beijing. It will be accompanied by INPE and private enterprise technicians. Nearly 30 percent of the CBERS mechanical parts are being manufactured by the group of enterprises comprised of Esca, Digicon, and Akros, of the Brazilian aerospace center. "All of the parts to be made in Brazil will be made by local industries," the scientist said.

The PRC is responsible for the remaining 70 percent of the project, as well as for the launchings scheduled for October 1996 and October 1998, which will be made with the help of the Long March rocket. The governments of the two countries are discussing the continuity of the joint space mission and the possible construction of a third satellite in the series. Approximately 10 national enterprises are participating in this program because they are stimulated by INPE's transfer of technology.

Santana asserted that only by expanding the Cuiaba Station antenna will the Brazilian institute be able to participate in operations to control these satellites. INPE has in its headquarters at Sao Jose dos Campos a sophisticated Center for Satellite Tracking and Controlling, which has already been used in the Complete Brazilian Space Mission (MECB).

Cardoso Promulgates Bill To Franchise Public Services

PY1402013695 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 13 Feb 95

[Report by Lourival Macedo in Brasilia]

[FBIS Translated Text] The law on franchising public services has been promulgated. As of now private companies can participate in the rendering of services in the electricity, telephone, and transportation fields.

President Fernando Henrique Cardoso today promulgated Law No. 987 on franchising and permission to render public services. With this new law the government allows partnerships with private companies in the rendering of public services that had so far been restricted to the federal government in the fields of energy, telephones, transportation, and highway, port, airport, and railroad construction, among others.

President Cardoso said that the new partnership between government and private companies envisages a control system to guarantee stability for consumers.

The president also signed two other draft bills that were sent to Congress. The first establishes rules for independent energy production. The second states that the Federal Government assumes the $341.2 million debt of the Candiota-3 thermoelectric plant located in Bage, Rio Grande do Sul. This same draft bill authorizes the privatization of this thermoelectric plant.

President Fernando Henrique Cardoso today stressed the importance of this law on franchising, and added that he is now giving Brazilian society a new development instrument.

[Begin Cardoso recording] To tell the truth, it is the first important step in changing the Brazilian state. With this law, society is gaining a concrete alternative to government investment for the expansion and improvement of public services, which is the participation of private capital. [end recording]

According to the president, the creation of independent electricity producers will cause a positive impact on the economy.

[Begin Cardoso recording] In encouraging private investors to produce electricity, my administration is adopting timely measures to prevent a future risk of energy rationing, which could take place during this administration or the next depending on the level of development we attain.

This group of measures will allow the resumption of paralyzed construction, which will dispel the danger of an energy lack that many people are foreseeing. [end recording]

The new law on franchising will reactivate the construction of 16 hydroelectric plants that had been paralyzed.

Congress Committee Positions Distributed Among Parties

PY1002224295 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The leaders of the congressional party blocs have defined the distribution of the presidencies of the 16 permanent committees of the Chamber of Deputies.

The PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] will preside over the Supervising and Control Committee whose task is to control the execution of the budget. The PSDB also will preside over the Foreign Affairs committee.

The bloc comprising the PFL [Liberal Front Party] and the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] will preside over four committees. The PFL will preside over the Constitution and Justice Committee, the Mines and Energy Committee, and the Consumers, Environment, and Minorities Defense Committee.

The PMDB will preside over the Science and Technology Committee, the Communications Committee, the Informatics Committee, the Finance and Taxation Committee, and the Transportation Committee.

The PPR will preside over the Economy Committee, the Industry and Commerce Committee, the Urban Development Committee, and the Interior Committee.

The PP will preside over the Education Committee and the PDT will preside over the Education, Culture, and Sports Committee.

A novelty was introduced by the PT [Workers Party] which chose to preside over the Agriculture and Rural Policy Committee, instead of the Labor Committee. The PT will also preside over the Human Rights Committee.

Federal Police Director General Nominated

PY1302114395 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 10 Feb 95 p 7

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brasilia—After a 40-day delay, the government yesterday elected the new director general of the Federal Police [PF]. Justice Minister Nelson Jobim proposed to President Fernando Henrique Cardoso the designation of Santa Catarina PF Superintendent Aroldo Broschetti Soster to replace Colonel Wilson Romao.

Jobim yesterday confirmed the creation of the National Planning Secretariat for Public Security Affairs, which will coordinate drug enforcement work and the work of the highway and railway police. The new secretariat will be headed by General Tamoio Pereira das Neves, the current army ministry cabinet chief.

The election of Soster provoked dissatisfaction among federal policemen, even before his official nomination and swearing-in. In Brasilia, Federal Policemen Union President Marcenilo Marques Caldas is preparing a demonstration to repudiate the new director. [passage omitted]

Like Col Wilson Romao, Superintendent Aroldo Broschetti Soster is known for his links with the old SNI [National Intelligence Service] and with the so-called "intelligence community." Born in Porto Alegre, Soster, 45, is a friend of PL [Liberal Party] Sao Paulo Senator Romeu Tuma, who headed the PF for seven years. Soster is also close to PFL [Liberal Front Party] President Jorge Bornhausen.

Most of Soster's resume revolves around drug enforcement, yet one entry is particularly striking: "Special training for management of police intelligence and counterintelligence actions," yet without mentioning the organization that sponsored the course.

Soster began his career as a policeman in 1973. Three years later he was designated superintendent after receiving a lawyer's degree from Londrina State University. [passage omitted]

Technology Minister Envisions Information Superhighway

PY1102010895 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 8 Feb 95 p 11

[Article by Heloisa Magalhaes]

[FBIS Translated Text] Science and Technology Minister Israel Vargas has said that it would be strategic for Brazil to implement an information superhighway, that it is a factor for social progress, and that it will create the conditions for developing a nationwide infrastructure for exchanging information—interconnecting the entire nation, from large institutions to schools and residences. He added that some kind of flexibility will be needed in the telecommunications monopoly in order to give sufficiently broad operating conditions to the information superhighway.

Israel Vargas said that the monopoly should be made more flexible in the areas that make use of the physical telecommunications infrastructure of the national computer network that the country has to implement. Only if the monopoly is made more flexible will "access providers" [preceding two words in English] show up.

"Micro-enterprise owners, among others, might, for example, rent a data channel of a local telephone operation company, connect users, train them to use the service, and collect the fee. Everyone would win something in his own market area, and the country would win with the creation of new qualified jobs and the creation of a competitive service for dissemination of and multiple access to information," Vargas said.

His proposal is particularly significant, because the Brazilian Internet network will start operating this week through Embratel [Brazilian Telecommunications Company]. Vargas claims that a Brazilian network built after the Internet model, with more than 30 million users throughout the world, should have prices that are reasonable even for small enterprise owners in remote areas. The minister said that it should not be an isolated program, and that "it should unite the entire country, from Embratel to state operators and service suppliers, in a single, large-capacity electronic channel, permitting multimedia applications with fiber optics infrastructure, coaxial cables, satellites, radio, etc., with which to make simultaneous use of data, sound, and image."

The minister explained that "the trend is to allow people to receive at home through a single 'plug socket' services that today are divided into telephone, television, and remote computing services, for a monthly fee equivalent to a cable television or video rental fee."

In the minister's opinion, an information superhighway should have an entrepreneurial approach with broad social views, because "it includes new and more efficient means for access to information and for rendering services, promoting integration among the various sectors of society, democratization of access to information, reduction of regional differences, and expansion of the supply of public services like, among others, long-distance education and health." He emphasized that from the government's viewpoint and within the mission of his portfolio, interest in a Brazilian superhighway is also related to the need to join ongoing research and development efforts throughout the country. "One can imagine the impact of such an infrastructure on the combined actions of universities, research institutes, industry, and society as a whole, with the desirable economic results of such integration." The ministry of science and technology is already working along that line in the academic and scientific areas through the National Research Network (RNP), which serves 50,000 users at reasonable prices. The network has over 500 interconnected institutions, with 7,000 servers with access abroad through Internet.

The minister noted, however, that there are challenges to be met in order to build the infrastructure for the information superhighway in the Brazil of today. The physical infrastructure stands as the first challenge. "It is necessary to increase the speed of connection and design, in coordination with the Communications Ministry and Telebras [Brazilian Telecommunications, Inc.], the physical and cost structure in order to permit generalized access at reasonable prices for all entrepreneurial levels, and to sponsor remote multimedia applications. To this end the cost might be shared by the federal, state, and municipal governments. [no closing quotation marks as published]

Vargas considers the services as the second and biggest challenge. He said that the number of people in Brazil who know Internet is still small, for which reason considerable effort must be made to train human resources. "It is necessary to educate millions of people. There are three new professional profiles: network managers, information suppliers, and users, the latter being those who, without knowing anything about informatics, can benefit from the network."

The minister considers the business produced by the network as the third challenge. "There will be opportunities for the appearance of countless undertakings, either private or sponsored by the government, such as participation in long-distance education. [no closing quotation marks as published]

"As the century nears its end, the most advanced nations are mastering the technology of the information industry, which is among those that will shape the future. Brazil can follow that course, because it has Latin America's largest informatics and telecommunications industrial sector, and the number of Brazilian professionals is equivalent to all the professionals of neighboring countries put together. The number of RNP users is only surpassed by similar networks in the United States and Canada. Summarizing, Brazil can make use of this advantage, establishing itself as a producer of technology and an active participant on this new stage of the world economy."

Chile

Opposition Accepts Change in Military Expenses Financing

PY1102015895 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1655 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Santiago, 10 Feb (EFE)—The two main Chilean opposition parties, the conservative National Renewal (RN) and the far right Independent Democratic Union (UDI), publicly announced today that they would accept changing the Armed forces financing system.

Until now, the state-owned Codelco [Copper Corporation] company, which administers the main copper mines in the country, has had to hand over 10 percent of its gross sales, an amount that totals approximately $400 million per year, to finance military expenditures.

The RN and the UDI have accepted ending this obligation, which was established during the former military regime under the Copper Reservation Law, and transferring the amount directly to the national budget.

Requests to transfer the Codelco obligation to the government's ordinary budget have been repeatedly made by the center and leftist parties over the last 10 years, but the right has always refused to agree to this.

At the time the argument was that it would avoid politicizing the debate over the public accounts. This will occur if the issue becomes part of the ordinary budget, which is debated in Congress year after year.

Jovino Novoa, a former member of the military regime and UDI president, asserted that his group believes the essential thing is to ensure "sufficient resources" for the Armed Forces.

Christian Democratic Party Deputy Jorge Pizarro was surprised at the "sudden interest" shown by the right wing, and attributed it to the pressure exerted by entrepreneurs in favor of privatization of Codelco, the value of whose business fluctuates between $4 and $5 billion per year.

Pizarro added that as long as the Copper Reservation Law continues into force, any attempt to privatize Codelco remains useless. President Eduardo Frei has said that during his administration Codelco will remain in the hands of the government

Refusal of Italian Court Request Causes 'Turmoil' in PDC

PY1302071595 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1658 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Santiago, 10 Feb (EFE)—A Chilean Supreme Court decision turning down an Italian court request in connection with a frustrated attack on Chilean politician Bernardo Leighton in Rome has caused turmoil in political circles, especially within the Christian Democratic Party [PDC].

The pro-government newspaper LA NACION today reports that, during an interview with Chilean officials at La Moneda, the presidential palace, Deputy Jorge Pizarro, the acting PDC president, voiced his indignation over the decision.

The Italian courts are preparing a trial against those responsible for the frustrated homicide of Leighton, one of the founders of the PDC (the main party in the government alliance) and a former vice president, who was shot at several times on 6 October 1975 while he and his wife were in Rome.

For the Italian court, it is clear that those who ordered the attack were retired Army General Manuel Contreras, the former chief of the now dissolved National Intelligence Directorate (DINA, the secret police of the military regime of General Augusto Pinochet), and retired General Raul Iturriaga Neumann, the chief of the DINA Foreign Department. [passage omitted]

Ominami on Special Jail, Coalition Relations

95SM0168A Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 22 Jan 95 pp D2-D3

[Interview with Socialist Party Senator Carlos Ominami by Raquel Correa in Valparaiso; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Many see him as Ricardo Lagos' "alter ego." There was a reason that he served as his supreme campaign manager during the primaries. And there was a reason this time, when his colleague and friend was in trouble, that he was the one who interceded with the president to surmount what he calls "the impasse," that is to say, the draft decree law to build a special jail for military personnel.

Perched high atop the Senate building and with a spectacular view of the harbor, Ominami feels that he has the moral authority to talk about the underlying issue (human rights) because, he says, "I was a triple victim of outrages and abuses."

He was a political refugee and exile, and his only sister was exiled ("for no reason"). But his most painful memory is his father's imprisonment. He was an air force (FACh) colonel, "and in 1973 he was in favor of honoring the constitution," he explains, instead of saying that he opposed the military coup. He was accused of handing over secret documents to the Allende government.

"He was arrested and tried by the first court martial. He was sentenced to five years in jail...He was in the public jail. I was never able to go and see him."

As he recalls his life 20 years ago, Aylwin's former economy minister lowers his voice as if he were talking to himself and his eyes grow misty.

"My father was tortured, to the point that he was psychologically ruined...He was tortured by his colleagues...Can you imagine what it was like to be tortured by someone who used to be your friend?" he says looking down towards the bay, restraining the emotion that has welled up in his voice and his Oriental eyes.

"After being held secretly for several months at a military facility (the Air War Academy), he was transferred to the public jail. Several dozen military men were in the public jail, and no one at the time said that they ought to be in a separate place."

[Correa] Having lived through this, in your heart aren't you in favor of putting military personnel who are convicted in court in regular prisons, like your father?

[Ominami] No. I am in favor of segregating them, even if my father was not...Nor was General Bachelet, who died in jail...

[Correa] Honestly, if you knew who tortured your father, wouldn't you want to see him in jail?

[Ominami] I know who it was.

[Correa] Would you like to see him in a public jail?

[Ominami] Yes. I have no desire for revenge, but I do think that it would be healthy for Chile to put these individuals in jail. He was a Chilean Air Force prosecutor...a general who was a friend of my father.

"But," he adds with an inner calm, "my father was the only air force officer whose honor the air force vindicated. I am beholden to General Matthei for that. He invited me and my father in 1990 to the FACh social club and gave him the air force ID card. That was very important to my father...And when he died...General Vega offered to have him buried with the appropriate honors. With gun salutes, speeches, everything. One of the colleagues who was with him in jail even bid him farewell. It was a grand gesture by General Vega, and I know that it is something that would have made my father very happy."

[Correa] In any event, you were in favor of segregation this time.

[Ominami] Yes. Special treatment, which is unacceptable, is something very different from the principle of separation. The point is that separation should be based on reasonable conditions, not be imposed by a sector that is looking for privileges. Minors, the mentally ill, women, are imprisoned separately. And I wish that first-time offenders were held separately too...The principle of separation is altogether reasonable. [end of answer]

A member of the Finance and Public Works Committee and married to journalist Manuela Gumucio (the mother of the "Toppins" on Megavision), Ominami does not conceal his revolutionary past. He was active in the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] in the days of Popular Unity.

[Correa] Did you ever kill anyone?

[Ominami] Never.

[Correa] Did you ever fire a gun?

[Ominami] Never. I was in the university MIR. We took to the streets and caused disturbances. And I also believed in the armed path for building socialism. [end of answer]

Although these ideas are now buried in his past and he is a renewal Socialist today, he acknowledges some of the movement's values:

"Its anti-Soviet stance, its criticism of real socialism set a precedent for the renewal of the Chilean left. Unfortunately, it completely misplaced its values along the way."

An "Envigado Two"?

Wives and mothers of imprisoned missing persons were in the galleries of Congress when the special-jail bill was debated and voted on. Sola Sierra and all of them sat in stony silence. Down below, the Coalition people defended the bill, and paradoxically the opposition opposed it.

Ominami says: "The right and the military opposed it because of Article 1, which provides that anyone convicted of a common crime be sent to whatever jail the prison police establish, notwithstanding other suits that may be pending against them, so that they do not serve their sentences in military establishments, as they have until now.

[Correa] Why from the outset did you, like Lagos, oppose the construction of a jail for military personnel?

[Ominami] Because there was insufficient information. I think that it is fine to build a jail with all of the proper features thereof (guarded by prison police, a daily schedule, etc.), but not an Envigado, like the one that was built for Escobar in Colombia. But the fact that they were not serving their sentences in jails merely because other suits were being pursued against them was a privilege that turned these places into vacation spots, not places of punishment. My feeling is that military personnel ought to be imprisoned separately.

[Correa] How do you explain the fact that Ricardo Lagos has refused to sign the decree to build the separate jail?

[Ominami] Two different problems came together. To be more precise, the administration made two mistakes. The first has to do with procedural matters. Minister Lagos found it neither appropriate nor acceptable when, after he had expressed his reservations on the matter, other ministers got together and decided to draft the decree. The political committee made this decision in the absence of the minister who had expressed reservations, and almost right then and there they issued a communique to the country that put Minister Lagos in a really very difficult situation.

The other problem was a frightful glitch in communications. It seems to me that the way the administration reported this decision suggested special treatment and privilege rather than the application of a reasonable principle: in this case the separation of military personnel.

[Correa] Why did you, like Lagos, change your mind?

[Ominami] From later information that we got we saw that the administration was not seeking to confer a privilege but was instead trying to create conditions conducive to meting out justice. The administration failed to communicate this to its own people and to the country. I am a senator, I belong to the Coalition, I have an opinion on the issue, and I had a right to be fully and opportunely informed about what they planned to do. And so did a cabinet minister who in addition had to sign the decree.

[Correa] It was said that Lagos was surprised by the news. Yet he was perfectly aware of the plans to build a jail.

[Ominami] He was not surprised by the idea of building a jail. He was, however, extraordinarily surprised by the fact that a decree was ready for him to sign even though he had at the proper time expressed his reservations to the president of the republic. A group of ministers, no matter how important they may be, simply cannot make a decision that directly concerns another minister without his input.

[Correa] But Lagos' complaint focused not on the procedural problem but on his ethical opposition to the special jail. What is the ethical problem? The fact that there is a separate jail?

[Ominami] In the first place, voicing an ethical reservation does not mean accusing those who do not share this reservation of lacking ethics. In this instance, the debate became complicated within the administration because some felt that Minister Lagos was discrediting the ethics of the others. And it is perfectly possible to segregate inmates within an existing jail.

[Correa] Your colleague, Senator Ricardo Nunez, told EL SUR in Concepcion that he could not imagine relatives of Contreras standing in line for jail visits next to relatives of Buschman...

[Ominami] He is right. The underlying problem was the very poor information from the administration. We, and I include Ricardo Lagos, thought that special treatment was being established. The way in which the administration handled the issue prompted reasonable suspicions that we were closer to "Envgado Two" than to a separate facility.

From Decree to Bill

[Correa] What is the underlying difference between signing a decree and passing a bill for the same purpose, as happened in this case?

[Ominami] There is a very important difference. And we must not forget that the decree that was designed to ensure the construction of a special facility for military personnel and well-known figures, which Ricardo (Lagos) opposed, was accompanied by a bill. I know that Lagos suggested that the decree be postponed until Congress saw the bill. This needs to be said: the solution always included submitting a bill to Congress to modify the Code of Military Justice, as the administration's own press release that Thursday said.

The advantage of the legislative route is that it stops the administration from building a jail that might wind up with no inmates. And second, it allows for a discussion of the human rights issue with the country looking on, in Congress, so that each political sector has to take a stand. Senator Hernan Larrain had to admit in his speech that human rights were seriously violated here, that this is a pending problem, and that we have to resolve it.

[Correa] What was not understood was why Minister Lagos would resign and then wind up withdrawing his resignation if the disagreement was about substance, not form.

[Ominami] The difference between the decree and the bill involves more than form, as I told you. And the circumstances have changed. The administrative route has immediate consequences simply because of the president's decision. When you take the legislative route, you start a major debate.

[Correa] Isn't the idea that if Lagos ever runs for president, no one will be able to lay into him for having signed a decree establishing a jail for military personnel?

[Ominami] I don't think so. He realizes clearly that a minister has to back all of the administration's decisions. In fact, the Friday before last Ricardo realized that a disagreement like this created a very difficult situation that would cause an irreparable rift in the Coalition. That is what I told President Frei that day, and he realized it. So much so that he himself set the stage for Ricardo to withdraw his resignation.

[Correa] Frei asked Lagos to withdraw it?

[Ominami] My understanding is that he did. Both Frei and Lagos realized clearly that Friday that the Coalition could break up. And both had to be flexible enough to prevent such a disaster. I think that it was very unfair for senior Coalition leaders to reproach Lagos later for a lack of scruples and loyalty when what Lagos did was to accept a compromise to prevent a disaster with extremely serious consequences for Chile. And the administration had to make very significant clarifications, such as that the aim was to build a real jail, not a five-star jail. Minister Alvear's statement eased my fears.

[Correa] Now that some time has passed, do you think that such a big fuss was worth the trouble?

[Ominami] The important thing is that passage of the bill means that the difference between those being tried and those who have been convicted has been accepted. Captain Carlos Herrera, for example, will have to enter a jail guarded by the Prison Police. And the same thing goes for General Contreras if he is convicted. In exchange for this we had to agree not to make further changes in the Code of Military Justice until 1998.

[Correa] And do you think that this turned out well for Ricardo Lagos?

[Ominami] No. It was bad for the administration, for the Coalition, and for Lagos. The damage could easily have been avoided. If the necessary explanations had been given and if the procedure had been appropriate, this would have been channeled in the right direction. My assessment of the "impasse" is that it was bad for the Coalition at large, for the administration, and for Lagos.

[Correa] And for Frei too, wasn't it?

[Ominami] It was also bad for the president of the republic, naturally. It was not a good thing for him.

[Correa] Don't you think that Lagos would have departed amid glory and majesty on the left if he had stuck to his resignation?

[Ominami] I think that Lagos enjoys the support of a large segment of the public and among the rank and file of the political parties.

[Correa] If the arrangement had not been altered in this "impasse," would Lagos have left the administration?

[Ominami] Definitely.

[Correa] And if Lagos had left the administration, would the PS [Socialist Party] and the PPD [Party for Democracy] have followed him?

[Ominami] A very dramatic debate with unforeseeable consequences would have ensued among us.

[Correa] But Lagos did not get the support of either the PS or the PPD in connection with this "impasse."

[Ominami] Ricardo Lagos and the officials of the PS and PPD saw things differently. In contrast, the activists and the mid-level leaders reacted by showing strong support for Ricardo's position.

[Correa] Even though he stayed?

[Ominami] Yes. Because they appreciate his gesture. And they approve of the switch from a decree to a bill. The view of the PPD and PS officials clearly did not coincide with that of the rank and file. That is the truth.

Leadership

[Correa] Do you think that Lagos remains the leader of the progressive left?

[Ominami] Without question. Although I admit that we were all losers in this episode. The bottom line, I think, is that Lagos was a winner in public opinion, among activists; his weaknesses are with the leaders, which is a serious problem. Leadership is not built solely among the public; it also depends on the political class's recognition of such leadership. And at that level he obviously has problems. What is happening to Lagos happens commonly to natural leaders: difficulties putting together teams, developing a system for periodic consultation. Allende was also criticized for this back then. Ricardo's resignation had too many political consequences, and it would not have led just to a cabinet reshuffling; it created a major crisis for the Coalition. And my impression is that Ricardo did not gauge the consequences.

[Correa] It is not at all to the advantage of the PS and PPD to leave the administration before its first year is up...

[Ominami] Yes, I think that the long-term impact of what happened in 1994 and early this year will lead us into an extraordinarily difficult situation. The lack of alternatives and the influence of administrative interests may stop us from leaving the administration. But as I told my party a few days ago, if there are no major changes, we could wind up in a "strange area." Officially we would be part of an administration, but in effect we would grow increasingly distant from and less committed to what it is doing. [end of answer]

Ominami picks up a paper he has written ("Balance de Fin de Ano" [Year End Assessment], which is known inside his party) and reads from it:

"The emergence of such a scenario would be extremely serious for the country, for the Coalition, and, to be sure, for socialism's future influence. A party that stands where it stands because it has no alternative or because it fears losing the positions of power it has won cannot claim massive, enthusiastic public support. We must never forget that the exercise of power for power's sake does not constitute an agenda."

Vulnerability

[Correa] Don't you think that the Coalition looks or is too vulnerable?

[Ominami] Yes. And perhaps this is the most disturbing part. The fact that certain situations can endanger the stability of the Coalition is very disturbing, as is the fact that these kinds of situations keep arising almost every other month.

[Correa] Why is it that the Socialists are at the eye of the hurricane whenever there is a crisis? The "Stange affair," "the TV Nacional affair," "the cabinet reshuffle," and now this "jail" business...

[Ominami] I think that it is true that we Socialists tend to be at the center of crises...But the underlying issue is that the people of this country, the Coalition people, and especially the Socialists do not feel that they are part of a coalition. In the Aylwin administration we all felt that we were involved in an extraordinarily important process: the reconstruction of democracy in Chile. That justified the Coalition, gave it a direction, obliged it to make sacrifices, to realize that there were things that could not be brought up, that some aspirations had to be deferred. I feel that the administration is heading up an extraordinarily important process of development, but that very broad segments of the country do not perceive this profound change as coming from the Coalition but instead from the business world. I think that we have unable to convey to the country how urgently we must use this opportunity for development. The other thing is that the administration has frozen the transition. And this is a process that is still pending. The transition is completely frozen; we have made practically no headway in this regard...This is obviously because we do not have enough of a majority in the Senate.

[Correa] So why do you blame the administration?

[Ominami] Because if the reforms are not making headway in Congress, we have to move them forward in the minds of the people. As for the democratization of the country, which is the Coalition's raison d'etre, we have not fought the public-opinion battle properly. Moreover, all the weight of the administration and the president's authority have not been used to push forward major reforms like putting an end to appointed senators, ending the president's inability to appoint the service commanders, and changing the political system from excessive presidentialism to a different system that is better suited to coalition governments. We cannot leave the transition on hold!

[Correa] You all have said that you are here to govern, not to make "token gestures."

[Ominami] Of course, but by putting the issue of political reforms aside, the administration has given the country, and particularly the right wing, the impression that it did regard this as a priority.

Colombia

Coffee Growers Leader Calls Frechette 'Executioner'

PA1002160895 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Feb 95

[From "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Armenia—Alberto Montoya, president of the Quindio Coffee Growers' Committee, has emphatically stated that the U.S. ambassador has become an executioner [verdugo] of Colombia.

Referring to the controversy over the certificate of efficiency or credibility in the struggle against drugs that the Clinton government will issue and the evaluation of our country, the union leader stated:

[Begin Montoya recording] This is somewhat regrettable, but it is much more important to recall what Mr. Myles Frechette has been for Colombia. Mr. Myles Frechette is one of the greatest executioners for the Colombian coffee growers, because when the Coffee Quotas Pact was broken in 1989, the U.S. delegate to the International Coffee Organization was the man who is now the U.S. ambassador to Colombia.

He was one of the greatest executioners of the world coffee growers and now he wants to be the great executioner of Colombia's international policy. It is definitely regrettable that a country such as the United States does not recognize the efforts that have been made and the blood that has been shed in Colombia. [end recording]

FARC's Conditions for Talks With Government Outlined

PA1202200395 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Feb 95

[From the "NTC News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Let us again look at the conditions announced by the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] for resuming peace talks. The conditions, which were contained in a letter sent in January, were exclusively revealed by "NTC News" yesterday.

The FARC Secretariat proposed Uribe Municipality, Meta Department, as the site of the first meeting with the national government. The FARC also demanded the demilitarization of urban and rural areas in this municipality as a condition to resume the talks. La Uribe is the Colombian municipality with the largest land area. It has lands in four departments.

The leadership of the guerrilla organization also demanded the transportation of its leaders under the responsibility of the Peace Commissioner in a government helicopter. In this first meeting, the FARC Secretariat intends to draft an agenda for the negotiations with the government, decide on a final site for the negotiations, and discuss the radio frequencies to be used to accelerate contacts with the government. The FARC set a 60-day deadline to initiate the talks and demanded that the dialogue be public.

The peace commissioner accepted all of these conditions but demanded the reduction of the deadline to 30 days.

FARC Rebels Respond to Samper Peace Proposals

PA1302202495 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Feb 95

[From the "National Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] responded for the first time in front of television cameras to the Samper administration's peace proposals.

The "National Newscast" had exclusive statements from El Mono Jojoy, member of the FARC's Secretariat in charge of one-third of the FARC's men.

He openly talked about his conditions for starting the dialogue. Today's interview was conducted by Omar Benavides and Diana Gomez, two independent journalists. Let us take a look at the cards being played by the guerrilla group.

[Begin recording] [Benavides] The place.

[El Mono Jojoy] The most important thing for us for the time being is to decide on the first meeting, which should be held in Colombia. We are proposing the demilitarization of La Uribe, which is a municipality in Meta Department.

[Benavides] Political recognition.

[El Mono Jojoy] A solution to the armed conflict and to social problems in Colombia must be a peaceful one. It must be a negotiated solution. To achieve this, it is necessary for the government to recognize us as a belligerent force, to accept that there are guerrillas in Colombia, and to recognize that it has to sit down at the negotiation table to discuss the different problems that adversely affect Colombians.

[Benavides] No disarmament.

[El Mono Jojoy] Weapons will at no time be placed on the negotiation table. We have to resolve the social problems of the Colombian people, which is what generates the violence.

[Benavides] Dialogue date.

[El Mono Jojoy] We have not set dates for the talks. That depends on the agreements we reach. It depends on the government.

[Benavides] Open dialogue.

[FARC Commander Mauricio] Colombia has to be informed step by step of what we are talking about. We do not represent ourselves. We represent the people's will; therefore, they have to know what we are talking about.

[Benavides] What about the guerrilla forces?

[El Mono Jojoy] We decide what to do in each case through the holding of talks with demobilized individuals. Most of the people who were members of the movements that were demobilized were left jobless. The government used its leaders and gave them some posts, but that was temporary. They were there for two, three, or four years, but they later left. Most of the guerrillas were left without jobs. [end recording]

Peace Commissioner on Rebels' Proposal on Talks

PA1402044395 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 feb 95

[Interview with Peace Commissioner Carlos Holmes Trujillo by Sandra Vergara on 13 February; place not given; from the "National Newscast"—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Vergara] The specific guerrilla proposal to initiate negotiations is that the negotiating zone be demilitarized. Is the government willing to do this?

[Holmes] The president of the Republic announced some time ago that he would first encourage rapprochement with the guerrilla forces to prepare the initial phase and, second, that the government will guarantee mobility and security to the possible negotiators.

[Vergara] The guerrilla forces are willing to begin negotiations without deposing their arms. Is the government willing to begin negotiations without the guerrilla forces deposing their arms?

[Holmes] The president's proposal is clear. The government is willing to negotiate in the midst of the war.

[Vergara] Moreover, what is going to happen to the armies of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia]? They say they do not want to be an unemployed group. Is there a specific proposal for the FARC armies?

[Holmes] That depends on what happens in the preparatory stages, whether the eventual negotiations are initiated and, of course, on the agreements reached during the process. The government feels, despite the successes achieved in the past, it will be necessary in this case to think in terms of a broader plan.

[Vergara] The guerrilla forces are asking for a more public, open dialogue. Is the government's specific proposal that the negotiations be kept secret?

[Holmes] The government has stated the levels of discretion are important, as has been demonstrated by all international experiences. Our own experience has demonstrated that. This does not mean the negotiations will be secret, because the country has the right to know how these efforts toward peace evolve.

[Vergara] The guerrilla forces have proposed that the negotiations be held in Uribe. What is more feasible for the government, that the talks be in Uribe, which is a zone heavily infested by guerrilla forces with a high concentration of the FARC, or that they be held in other regions, such as in Tolima, Cauca, or Huila Departments, as proposed by the government?

[Holmes] It is essential for the government that the place, conditions, and issues agreed upon for that first meeting respond to the needs of a good preparation for the eventual negotiations.

Government Reports Progress in Peace Talks With Guerrillas

PA1302165895 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 13 Feb 95

[From the "AM/PM Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government issued a communique today stating that its rapprochement with the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] is progressing satisfactorily in terms of future peace talks. Official spokespersons also confirmed that the government has agreed to Uribe as the site of the meeting and is having the zone prepared by suspending offensive patrols by the Army. This will allow leaders of the guerrilla fronts of the so-called FARC to concentrate there.

As for the ELN [Army of National Liberation] and the EPL [Popular Liberation Army], it was learned that the initial agreements have been delayed due to the insistence of these organizations that Francisco Galan and Caraballo, who are currently in prison, be their spokespersons.

Business Sector Views Inflation Performance

95CA0112A Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 2 Feb 95 p 3B

[FBIS Translated Text] *Inflation reached its lowest level for any January in the last 10 years: 1.84 percent. Its annual increase stands 3.04 points from the 18 percent target which, according to Perry, will be attained.*

Santa Fe de Bogota—The Social Pact made its presence felt during January, because it managed to bring inflation to its lowest point for the first month in the last 10 years: it stood at 1.84 percent.

With 18 percent expected, the annual growth in the cost of living reached 21.94 percent last month: still over three points from the target, however, this is acceptable if its increase for the past two years is examined: within that interval, it was 22.5 percent for January 1994.

During the past 10 years, in January alone, the parameter measuring the increase in the cost of living, the Consumer Price Index (CPI), had remained at about 3 percent.

In January, inflation was 1.85 percent for the middle income group, and 1.82 percent for those with low incomes.

A report of victory in the battle against inflation was given by Finance Minister Guillermo Perry upon his return from London. In his view, there will be no difficulty in reaching the target of 18 percent.

The experts attribute the 1.84 percent standing in January of this year to the first commitments made by the government and some sectors of the economy after the enactment of the Agreement on Productivity, Prices, and Wages.

The clearest message came in the Samper administration's decision not to raise gasoline prices until the end of the first quarter of 1995. This increase usually occurred during the holiday season in December or early January, causing a chain reaction of price hikes.

The food sector made its contribution in December, with the signing of the agreement to freeze prices on the part of the wholesale dealers from the Bogota Supplies Corporation. This measure was in effect between 15 December and 15 January. Later, the wholesale provision markets throughout the country made an agreement with the government to accept the 18 percent plan for products such as grains and processed items.

The agreements with other sectors were being enacted in January but, according to the experts, their effects will begin to be felt throughout the year.

In Perry's opinion, the Social Pact and the Macroeconomic Policy have become synchronized, and made the 1.6 percent reduction in the cost of living during January possible. He explained that, since the readjustments in transportation and the 12 or 13 percent rise in gasoline prices have already occurred, it will be impossible for this to be translated into a deluge of price hikes.

According to ANDI [National Association of Industrialists], the 1.84 percent rise in the cost of living "is an extraordinary result, which proves the merit of joining forces. That claim about prices rising with the higher prices of gasoline in January is an old story. The Committee to Monitor and Evaluate the Pact will be there to take care of that."

Asobancaria [Bankers Association] noted that this was to be expected, and is not surprising, because the terms of the Pact are being met: "When gasoline prices go up, we shall see whether the Pact is working."

Fenalco [National Federation of Businessmen] claimed to be satisfied with the results, a product of concerted action, proving that the government's commitments are being kept. Acopi [Colombian Association of Small Industries] observed: "It is encouraging and favorable for expectations. It remains to be seen whether the results are real, with the rise in fuel prices."

DANE [National Administrative Department of Statistics] Director Maria Luis Chiape commented: "I'm afraid to make predictions, but it cannot be denied that the results are having a major impact."

The largest price hike during January 1995 occurred in the Transportation group, totaling 3.14 percent. This happened because of the increases in the Transportation and Communications subgroup, which posted a rise of 4.73 percent.

The biggest increases in this subgroup occurred in Documents, with 22.21 percent; Small Bus Fares, with 7.48 percent; and Inter-Municipal Bus Fares, with 7.43 percent.

The Food group also had an above-average increase, of 2 percent. Prominent in this category are the price hikes for Meals Away From Home, with 5.89 percent; Fresh Fruits, with 3.44 percent; Green Vegetables and Legumes, with 3.15 percent; and Potatoes, Bananas, and Other Tubers, with 2.28 percent.

Similarly, Health was added to the groups with the largest increases, because its commodities group had a 1.91 percent price rise. In this category, the major contributor was Professional Services, with 3.29 percent.

The highest rates of price increases occurred in Bogota, with 2.17 percent; followed by Cartagena, with 2.09 percent; Barranquilla, with 1.98 percent; and Medellin, with 1.97 percent. The cities with the lowest inflation were Pasto, with 1.03 percent, and Cucuta, with 1.10 percent.

Impacted Inflation - Trend and annual variation (in percent) (scale of 21.0-24.0)

Year	Percent
Apr 93-Apr 94	23.94
May 93-May 94	23.8
Jun 93-Jun 94	23.2
Jul 93-Jul 94	22.7
Aug 93-Aug 94	22.3
Sep 93-Sep 94	22.35
Oct 93-Oct 94	22.4
Nov 93-Nov 94	22.2
Dec 93-Dec 94	22.6
Jan 94-Jan 95	21.04

Historic Low in January - Monthly variation (in percent), Jan 1985-1995 (scale of 1.5-4.0)

Year	Percent
1985	2.25
1986	3.2
1987	3.25
1988	3.0
1989	2.9
1990	3.25
1991	3.0
1992	3.5
1993	3.3
1994	3.2
1995	1.84

Marin Bernal on Penalties for Non-Compliance With Social Pact

95CA0109A Cali EL PAIS in Spanish 22 Jan 95 p 2C

[Interview with Development Minister Rodrigo Marin Bernal by Elizabeth Mejia and Narciso de la Hoz G. on 22 January; place not given; first four paragraphs are EL PAIS introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Social Pact does not keep Development Minister Rodrigo Marin Bernal up at night. What does disturb his sleep are the decisions by the managers of public-service enterprises, who according to him are "foiling" the goal of lowering inflation to 18 percent.

So, in an interview with EL PAIS he foreshadowed the decrees that will be issued tomorrow and announced severe penalties for agencies that raise their rates more than 18 percent. The penalties include fines of up to 237 million pesos, suspension and disqualification of their managers from holding public office, and even their takeover by the Superintendency of Services.

The Bogota Water Supply and Sewerage Enterprise will be the first to be penalized. But there are others waiting for the ax to fall as well.

In the conversation with EL PAIS Minister Marin gave a rundown of the first 20 days of the pact and predicted that the cost of living in January would be substantially lower than in previous years.

[EL PAIS] There are those who think that the first cracks have already begun to appear in the pact: in transportation, education, and some public-sector wages...

[Marin Bernal] Not at all. This is not the way to interpret the complaints, which have to come not only from the public but also from the citizens who are adversely affected by decisions that lead to excessive rate increases.

[EL PAIS] And who is monitoring the Social Pact?

[Marin Bernal] The Social Pact Follow-up Commission has the job of monitoring compliance with the commitments made by the government, employers, and workers and the behavior of the different variables involved in the setting of prices.

[EL PAIS] What about the 21 percent pay raise for congressmen?

[Marin Bernal] The constitution provides for the automatic adjustment of congressional pay. In authorizing it, the comptroller was abiding by Law 4 of 1992, under which the pay increase must be equivalent to the weighted average of the rise in national civil-service pay the immediately prior year.

[EL PAIS] Where does transportation stand?

[Marin Bernal] The mayors of the main cities have not only pledged to honor the Social Pact but some have also taken on the obligation to authorize a rate hike after the increase in gasoline prices scheduled for March.

The mayor of Bogota has not made such a commitment because he entered into another agreement before the government signed this commitment, but the mayors of Cali and Pereira and another five of the country's 13 leading cities have.

[EL PAIS] So there is no way to put those who fail to comply "up against a wall," as the unions wanted?

[Marin Bernal] Sure there is. Organized labor has submitted a proposal to penalize the mayor of Bogota with a form of censure. Beforehand, though, the technical secretariat of the Follow-up Commission will look into the arguments that the mayor cited in defending the decree he issued and the arguments underlying the union complaints. The commission will decide this week.

[EL PAIS] Some service enterprises have said that they will post major losses if they abide by the 18 percent guideline. Is the government going to give them the money that they wind up losing?

[Marin Bernal] I am not aware of any policy here.

[EL PAIS] But the managers of public enterprises in Cali and Bogota insist that they will be hurt...

[Marin Bernal] The Bogota Water Enterprise has not complied with the commitments made by its previous management to reduce the volume of water losses, to cut the payroll, and above all not to allocate funds from rate charges to boost operating expenditures. Therefore, it will be the first to be penalized tomorrow.

[EL PAIS] Are other public enterprises in noncompliance?

[Marin Bernal] I do not know of any, but the rules are the same for all. The ones that do not comply will be penalized by the Superintendency of Public Services.

[EL PAIS] Does the ministry have tools to penalize those who violate the pact?

[Marin Bernal] Yes, violating or failing to comply with the resolutions issued by the various commissions that regulate public utilities (water, power, and electricity) could bring severe penalties, ranging from 237 million peso fines to suspension of business and even the removal of the managers of the guilty regional agency, with a resulting 10-year disqualification from holding a post in the sector. Likewise, the government, through the Superintendency of Public Services, could even take over the offending enterprise.

[EL PAIS] Another criticism of the pact is that in a way it represents a return to price controls. Isn't this a return to a past that we have left behind?

[Marin Bernal] This observation elicits a skeptical smile from me, because it shows an inexplicable lack of familiarity with existing law. We are merely fulfilling the duty of all public servants to make our conduct conform to the letter of the law. Failure to comply with these laws meant overshooting the inflation target in 1994.

[EL PAIS] People say that this administration has plans for everything and that on each trip the president does nothing but announce new spending. Doesn't this run counter to the inflation goal?

[Marin Bernal] That is an inaccurate assessment. Because for the first time public investment in the country will be governed by the Development Plan, which will reflect the will of Congress, not just contain a lot of rhetoric.

Arms Trafficking Network Used San Andres

95CA0119A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Feb 95 p 11A

[Article by staff writer Clara Elvira Ospina]

[FBIS Translated Text] *The Navy uncovered a network of arms traffickers, 70 percent of whom were Nicaraguans. According to the informants, a high-ranking Army officer from that country may head the network, receiving support from investigators in both nations.*

With the capture of four Nicaraguan citizens who were attempting to bring nine rifles and large amounts of ammunition into Colombia, the National Navy is confident that it has uncovered the latest network of arms traffickers operating through San Andres.

The surprising part of the Navy's investigations is that, tentatively, everything points to a high-ranking officer on active duty in the Nicaraguan Army as chief of the network.

The Navy's investigators in San Andres obtained information on the ring's operating method over three months ago and, shortly after the follow-up began, contact was made by the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] guerrillas with the network's Nicaraguan connection.

The deal was closed and, although there are not many details on how it was concluded, the fact is that the shipment of nine AK-47 rifles, eight carriers, and 1,933 7.62-caliber rounds was due to arrive at San Andres before the end of this week.

The guerrillas apparently had purchased each rifle for a sum of nearly 700,000 pesos. Although the price of rifles in Nicaragua fluctuates between 250,000 and 300,000 pesos, the cost increased because the Nicaraguans were committed to deliver the weapons in San Andres. The shipment left from the port of Bluefields in Nicaragua, bound for Colombia.

Last Thursday, however, when the traffickers had already reached Johnny Key, Navy and police units captured the smugglers Noel Severian Rodriguez Giron, Carlos Selaxza Stynce, Kent Leonard Downs, and Jose Blanford Moody.

According to an intelligence report prepared by the National Navy, Selaxza and Blanford were members of the Sandinist Army of National Liberation. The report reveals the complete organizational chart of the arms smugglers' network, 70 percent of which consists of Nicaraguan citizens.

The Links

In the report, to which EL TIEMPO had access, mention is made of the names of 19 persons comprising the arms trafficking organization's top echelon.

According to some informants, it is headed by a high-ranking Nicaraguan Army officer, who is backed in this activity by another lower-ranking soldier, a subordinate of his.

The informants also claim that officials from the departments responsible for immigration control in Nicaragua, and probably in Colombia as well, may have links with the network.

The network reportedly consists of 70 percent Nicaraguans.

Although it is not known whether these individuals captured on San Andres Thursday had already come to Colombia to obtain arms intended for the guerrillas, what is clear is that the network now now has a definite structure.

According to the reports, Selaxza is the most important member of this group of four captured, because it is believed, tentatively, that his direct contact is a trafficker very close to the Nicaraguan officer.

Government sources indicated that, although it is not a very difficult task to create a network of traffickers operating through San Andres, for the present, this strike will make a sizable reduction possible in the arms traffic through the Caribbean island.

A Navy officer commented: "Our problem is that there are many weapons left in Nicaragua after the peace process, and the difficult economic situation confronting the population makes it an excellent market for the Colombian criminals."

The Navy's operations against those smuggling arms through San Andres in 1994 made it possible to capture 11 Colombians and three foreigners who had been serving as middlemen in the arms trade.

It is tentatively believed that the rifles confiscated last Thursday were bound for the FARC's Fifth Front, operating in Uraba.

Illegal Arms Manufacture, Trade Said Rising

95CA0121A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 6 Feb 95 p 15A

[FBIS Translated Text] *On the black market for arms, an assault rifle may be purchased for 700,000 or 800,000 pesos. Those prices are making the market profitable.*

In 1994, the Colombian authorities seized 21.775 weapons and 64,183 rounds of ammunition of various calibers throughout the entire country. Such results are just one proof that Colombia is still an important destination for the smugglers of military equipment.

In the opinion of the investigators from the Judicial and Investigative Police Directorate (Dijin), the arms traffickers have not only opened new routes to Colombia, but also have acquired means for obtaining the latest in weapons technology.

The arms black market in Colombia has been invaded by weapons ranging from modern AUG rifles made in Austria with synthetic fiber and M-72 Laws antitank missile launchers of Norwegian origin to Grap Apers M-61 grenades made in the state factories of the former Yugoslavia.

The Dijin claims that there is not a single Colombian border that has not been a passageway for an arms shipment bound for organized crime or the rebel groups of the Guerrilla Coordinating Board.

One factor, perhaps the principal one, causing the country to continue being a profitable arms market is that an assault rifle can be obtained for 800,000 pesos, whereas its real price is almost triple that amount. The same thing applies to other types of weapons.

And even though the Colombian authorities' action to curb the arms black market and trafficking has brought significant results, what concerns the experts now is the increasing business in the clandestine weapons factories.

Intelligence reports even warn that perhaps the most sophisticated clandestine industry manufacturing Ingram and Uzi submachine guns is operating in Cali. The incipient manufacturers now have the capacity to copy high precision silencers that are by no means inferior to those made by the leading arms multinationals.

The experts also indicate that the arms black market dealings with neighboring countries have grown considerably. This week, on San Andres, the Navy confiscated six AK-47 rifles sent from Nicaragua. The price of each was 700,000 pesos.

The investigators report the existence of four routes consolidated by the arms smugglers for transporting rifles, missiles, grenades, and even plastic dynamite to Colombia.

On these routes, the arms smugglers use vessels with deep draft and cargo transport planes. The investigators note that, in 70 percent of the cases, the weapons are put aboard in China, Korea, Bulgaria, Spain, and Portugal.

Hence, Israeli Galil rifles, with a power range of 600 meters and weighing 3 kg, are put aboard in Bulgaria, sent to the United States, and then taken to Central America. The final phase is that on San Andres Island.

The Kalashnikovs, commonly called AK-47's, enter through Central America and arrive in Colombia via Panama. These rifles are usually destined for the insurgent organizations operating in the country.

Other weapons, such as the Steyr AUG assault rifle, with a range of 970 meters, leave Bulgaria, cross the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic, and finally reach Argentina. From there they are shipped by land to Peru or Ecuador, entering Colombia through Buenaventura.

The Fal rifles, of Belgian make, are stolen from the Venezuelan National Guard armories and sold to the smugglers on the black markets operating in San Antonio and Guasdualito. From there, they are carried by land to Cucuta or Arauca.

The merchants of death have even gained access to the powerful HGR Splitter grenades, manufactured in reserve by the Diehl Ordnance Division in Germany. This device is made with a high explosive, and has a range of 35 meters as a radius. Its entry is achieved through the main seaports.

The authorities point out that, last year, the trafficking organizations opted to use the Caribbean islands as reshipment points for their arsenals, as a means of avoiding detection by Customs.

For example, Trinidad and Tobago, the Corn Islands, the Dominican Republic, and even the Gulf of Maracaibo are essential enclaves for organizing the entry of weapons into Colombia. Within the country, the smugglers use cars with false bottoms, caches in the car bodies, and even compartments in the lighting system, to conceal the military equipment and transport it to its final destination.

During the past two months, the authorities have detected a site located in the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta, where the guerrillas have set up a gigantic warehouse for storing the arsenals purchased abroad.

The police records indicate that, in the past three years, the police forces have confiscated 51,000 illegal weapons in Bogota, Medellin, Cali, and Barranquilla.

Despite everything, last year the police not only managed to seize a considerable number of weapons, but also succeeded in reducing the rates of murders committed with firearms. For example, whereas in 1993 there were 28,173 homicides, last year the number of such deaths was 26,484.

Statistics for Unexplained Murders in Valle

95CA0110A Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 2 Feb 95 p 10-A

[FBIS Translated Text]*They are finding more mutilated bodies in the Cauca River. The Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman makes a dramatic assessment of the death squads' activity.*

Cali—While President Samper, in Bogota, was admitting the State's responsibility for the genocide in Trujillo, Valle, and the residents of the latter locality were receiving that declaration torn between skepticism and hope, another massacre occurred in Tulua.

Last Wednesday, the brothers Herney and Henry Carmona were buried. Kidnapped on Friday of the previous week, their tortured, decapitated bodies were found in the Cauca River. Yesterday, Omar and Rodolfo Carmona, brothers of the aforementioned, were found in the same river and in the same condition. Three of them had been taken by force out of a police roundup.

The human rights ombudsman in the department, Reinaldo Botero Bedoya, condemned the violation of the right to life that has been occurring systematically in this section of the country for several years. Forty-five percent of the urban population comes from other areas, from which they have been displaced by violence. They become invaders or form poverty belts, where the rings, gangs, or militias enforce the law of the strongest prevailing.

According to official statistics, over 1,000 of them were murdered last year; and, according to the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman, the regional violence stems from the drug traffic, and the landholders, paramilitary groups, militias, gangs, common criminals, and public forces.

Police statistics indicate that, during 1994, over 5,000 persons in the department were murdered.

Whereas, during 1991, 19 persons disappeared, in 1992 the number rose to 239, and in 1993 to over 300. Last year, these figures were exceeded, and during the first month of this year 48 persons disappeared in Cali, according to the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office.

Left in that office are reports of massacres that no one is investigating, and accounts of the systematic elimination of ex-gangsters in Aguablanca, Cali, by squads of hooded individuals.

The Human Rights Ombudsman's Office claims: "Based on calculations, it is estimated that, last year, over 1,000 young people were murdered in Cali. On 7 May 1994, 18 youths were killed during an operation carried out by hooded persons, who committed the massacre because of the authorities' ineffectiveness. A police station operates in the area. On 28 August, in the Manuela Beltran district, 12 young people were murdered by several hooded individuals."

It adds that the situation is similar in the central part of Valle. The rapid purchase of cheap land in Riofrio, San Pedro, and Trujillo prompted massive deaths everywhere. "In 1994 a group calling itself Colsinguer showed up in a rural area of Buga, known as La Magdalena, and on 13 August that group killed Marcos Ulises Tautiva, Marcos Omar Barbosa, and Miguel Ospina. The incident occurred only 300 meters from the police station, which had received reinforcements that day. The peasants complained that the electric light, activated from the police station, had been turned off half an hour before the massacre. The district's only telephone also had been left out of order."

The human rights ombudsman is delving into the statistics on unpunished murders committed for political and economic reasons. He charges that the cases are ascribed to "common violence," as occurred at the time of the 1990 massacre in Trujillo, and in Riofrio, where 13 peasants from two families were massacred on the morning of 5 October 1993.

The courts finally decided to implicate in the latter case the then commander of the Palace de Buga Battalion, Colonel Luis Felipe Becerra Bohorquez, who was removed from the Army because of those incidents.

The Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman claims that, in Cali, although the recent local police purge produced an institutional improvement in the low-income districts, the police are still being identified as the ones responsible for massacres.

Ecuador

Government Receives Peruvian Cease-Fire With Skepticism

PA1402032495 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0247 GMT 14 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 13 Feb (DPA)—The Ecuadoran Government received Peru's announcement this evening of a unilateral cease-fire beginning at 1200 (1700 GMT) on 14 February with "obvious skepticism," although with expectation, according to what the Ecuavisa Television Network reported from the Presidential Palace.

Citing an unidentified official source, Ecuavisa stated "obvious skepticism reigns" in the government house, because "up until tonight's surprising announcement, Peru had systematically rejected any halt of hostilities, truce, or nonmilitary solution."

"If (the Ecuadoran base of) Tihuinza has already fallen into Peruvian hands, why does it not immediately implement the cease-fire?" asked the official source cited by Ecuavisa, the country's most important television network.

It has not been ruled out that President Sixto Duran-Ballen will issue a statement tonight, at the end of the urgent meeting he convoked after the Peruvian announcement.

Nevertheless, at 2040 (0140 GMT), when Peru announced the cease-fire, the Ecuadoran military command was reporting that clashes continued along three fronts, in a triangle formed by the Ecuadoran bases of Cueva de los Tayos, Tihuinza, and Base Sur.

All these detachments, according to Quito's report, are still under Ecuadoran control, because the versions about their seizure by Peruvian forces are only part of a psychological warfare and for propaganda abroad.

The undeclared border war between Ecuador and Peru broke out on 26 January over the possession of an area of jungles and swamps, presumably rich in gold. It is located along 78 km of an undemarcated border due to the geographic errors of the border protocol signed in Rio de Janeiro in 1942.

Government Issues Communique on Peruvian Cease-Fire

PA1402045195 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 0414 GMT 14 Feb 95

[Statement by Carlos Larreategui, secretary general of public administration, at the Government Palace in Quito—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] I will proceed to read the official communique issued by the national government, about which I will not comment:

The Ecuadoran Government states that the Peruvian Government's cease-fire decision, announced through Official Communique No. 695 of that country's Foreign Ministry, constitutes adherence to a similar declaration our government made on 31 January that could not be implemented due to the constant Peruvian attacks that have led to a heroic defensive action by the Ecuadoran Armed Forces.

It states that it receives with serenity the Peruvian Government's decision to establish a cease-fire.

It declares that the Ecuadoran Armed Forces will not fire their weapons if they are not attacked.

It reiterates its invitation that observers of the guarantor countries will verify the cease-fire and the reestablishment of peace.

It invites the national and foreign media, the International Red Cross, and the human rights organizations to visit the detachments of Coangos, Tihuinza, Base Sur, Cueva de los Tayos, and Condor Mirador, which remain under the control of the Ecuadoran Armed Forces.

It thanks the guarantor countries for the untiring search for peace, an objective which Ecuador unalterably shares and pledges to continue providing the invaluable aid that will ensure that the cease-fire will be effective by sending observers and applying other mechanisms that have been considered in the Brasilia meetings.

Up to here, the official communique.

I must also announce that the president of the Republic will address the country via a national network once the cease-fire has been implemented. This is all I have to say for the time being. Thank you.

Duran-Ballen Awaits Peru's Response to Guarantor Proposal

PA1302223795 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2107 GMT 13 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nueva Loja (Ecuadoran Amazon region), 13 Feb (EFE)—The latest proposal by Argentina, Chile, Brazil, and the United States for a cease-fire between Ecuador and Peru "is acceptable" and the government only submitted "minor observations" to clear up details, Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen said today.

In an exclusive interview with EFE aboard "Ecuadoran Air Force 001," Duran-Ballen said that if the Peruvian reply to that proposal also consists of "minimal variations in wording," there is reason to be optimistic and presume that there will be a halt to hostilities "in the next few hours."

"Everything now depends on how the other side (Peru) decides to act," the president added.

According to Duran-Ballen, that halt to hostilities will be obtained "without Ecuador withdrawing a single step."

Diplomats from Argentina, Chile, Brazil, and the United States presented their latest cease-fire proposal on Sunday night, in their capacity as guarantors of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol, an Ecuadoran-Peruvian border treaty signed in 1942.

Duran-Ballen stressed to EFE that "this proposal is acceptable to Ecuador if small modifications are adopted. They are more to clarify details than to address issues of content. They are observations on style."

Ecuador's "slight observations" will be sent in writing to Brasilia, where diplomats from the four guarantor countries are meeting with Ecuadoran Deputy Foreign Minister Marcelo Fernandez de Cordova and Peruvian Deputy Foreign Minister Eduardo Ponce.

Joint Command Denies Peru's Seizure of Tihuinza

PA1402051695 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 0432 GMT 14 Feb 95

[Communique issued by the Armed Forces Joint Command in Quito on 13 February; read by General Victor Manuel Bayas, chief of the joint command]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Armed Forces Joint Command categorically denies the Peruvian president's assertion that the Peruvian Armed Forces have seized Tihuinza. It notes that on several occasions, President Fujimori made a similar affirmation. It clarifies that the detachments of Coangos, Tihuinza, Base Sur, Cueva de los Tayos, and Condor Mirador remain in the control of the Ecuadoran Armed Forces.

It reports that today, 13 February, Peruvian forces attacked Base Sur, categorically (?failing) in their attempt and sustaining many casualties. In this clash, one heroic soldier was killed and three were wounded.

In view of Peru's decision to establish a cease-fire, it states that up to now, the Ecuadoran Armed Forces have only repelled the attacks by the Peruvian forces.

It exalts the bravery and heroism of the Ecuadoran soldiers who in an unequal struggle are holding on to all positions in a victorious manner.

[Signed] Armed Forces Joint Command.

Colonels Deny Peruvian Claims

PA1402054395 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 0320 GMT 14 Feb 95

[Report by Sergio Paredes]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Unidentified announcer] Because of the importance of the information reported by Sergio Paredes on Tihuinza still being under Ecuadoran control, we would like to repeat statements by Colonel Grijalva and Colonel Luis Hernandez, who reiterate that Tihuinza remains in Ecuadoran hands, thus rejecting allegations by Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori.

[Paredes, in progress] ...immediate reaction by the Ecuadoran authorities stationed in the eastern section of our country who categorially denied allegations by Peru, specifically President Alberto Fujimori, with respect to the base of Tihuinza having been taken over by the Peruvian Army. Col. Jose Grijalva said the following.

[Begin recording] [Grijalva, in progress] ...in view of the information that you have all been able to receive through the Peruvian media, to strongly state that the sector under our control, in other words, Base de Tihuinza, Base Sur, and the area of Cueva de los Tayos, still remain under the control of Ecuadoran troops. I would like you to meet Lt. Col. Luis Hernandez, the brigade's operations chief, who will provide more details with respect to the status of our sector.

[Hernandez] Good evening, gentlemen. As pointed out by Col Grijalva, the aforementioned sectors are under Ecuadoran control. During the afternoon, I have had the opportunity to visit the command post of some units located in the forward sector, and we were able to speak with the commanders of each sector. All these sectors are still in Ecuadoran hands. This has even allowed us to resupply these sectors, which indicates that any information to the contrary by any media, or by any person, is absolutely false. Likewise, we have bases in sectors located west of the Cenepa River. These bases are being defended by Ecuadoran troops, and we are carrying out patrol activities of our areas. Throughout the day, there have been clashes with Peruvian patrols, which we have been able to repel, inflicting significant casualties. That is the information I can provide at this time. As has been customary with this Army, we have stuck to the facts of the events. I was able to verify these facts a few hours ago as [words indistinct] brigade. Our soldiers are at their posts, and morale is very high. We have resupplied them, and the [word indistinct] at the sites where they are currently stationed. Therefore, everything said with respect to our not being at specific sites is completely false. Thank you for your presence here and good night. [end recording]

Colonel Reports Border Fighting Waning

PA1302183595 Paris AFP in Spanish 1625 GMT 13 Feb 95

[By Special AFP correspondent Rodrigo Jacome]

[FBIS Translated Text] Patuca, Ecuador, 13 Feb (AFP)—Fighting at the Ecuadoran-Peruvian Amazon border has waned considerably in the past 24 hours, Colonel Jose Grijalba, commander of the Condor-21 Detachment in Patuca, told AFP early this morning

The officer described "a successful operation seldom seen in the world" in which all Ecuadoran soldiers who have "successfully defended the old detachments and positions" have been relieved at the border of the two countries, where fighting broke out 9 January [date as received].

"We have had virtually no ground fighting, except for insignificant sporadic skirmishes," the officer, in charge of the theater of operations that has been under attack by the Peruvian forces, stated.

At midday on Monday there were no reports of what happened Sunday evening or Monday morning.

The military officer said the personnel, who have been relieved and who were in charge of "the heroic defense of the upper part of the Cenepa River, have been evacuated without any problems."

He said that after receiving reports from the returning soldiers, he embraced them and authorized them to go home to their families "with the great satisfaction of having done their duty for the fatherland."

The new units (troops) began to go in five days ago and "are ready to reinforce our troops, if necessary," the officer explained.

He said that a combat relief operation is very complicated, "but I am satisfied to say it was totally successful. In reality, very seldom have we seen anything like it in the military history of the world."

Grijalba confirmed that three Peruvian aircraft were downed last Friday and said that in the past 36 hours an Ecuadoran soldier was wounded in the leg.

Asked about the fate of the weapons and other materiel abandoned by the Peruvian military, Grijalva said that is one of the topics that will be discussed after there is a cease-fire.

"So will the issue of the prisoners," he said, adding that "if their position (of the Peruvians) is courteous and respectful, after the military meeting there may be an exchange of weapons."

He recalled that this did not occur in 1981 (year when both countries waged a war), "when they were discourteous and we responded in the same manner."

"I cannot anticipate how they will act, nor can I be sure that a cease-fire will occur," he said.

In any event "our troops will be awaiting orders from our commander in chief, President (Sixto Duran-Ballen), and based on that we will know if we will continue to fight in the Amazon region. If there is a willingness for a cease-fire, then we will honor it and respect it."

Regarding the fears of the civilian population of a large-scale bombing by the Peruvian military, Grijalva said the Civil Defense is fully organized.

"They are working and fulfilling the missions contemplated in the Constitution and in the civil defense law. At this moment officers, both on active and inactive duty, are at their posts fulfilling the missions assigned to them," he said.

"I would venture to say that the forces of resistance, the civic cooperation forces, and the Civil Defense institutions are all ready to do their job. The people are prepared for this," Grijalva added in his remarks to AFP.

From a military standpoint he said that "our organization and antiaircraft defense is ready throughout the country and in the rear guard, for example, in our detachment," he said.

Grijalva insisted that the Ecuadoran troops will not let Peruvians evict them or occupy any of the old border detachments in whose trenches Ecuadorans have been for several decades.

Peruvian Aggression Against Journalists Denounced

PA1402050795 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 0328 GMT 14 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry has presented a formal protest to the Peruvian Embassy in Quito over the brutal aggression endured Sunday, 12 February, in [word indistinct] by journalists Ramiro Cueva and Pablo Reyes, who were subjected to physical and psychological torture by approximately 20 Peruvian Marines.

The torture sessions took place first at a beach [words indistinct] and later at the [word indistinct] of the First Infantry Division of the [word indistinct] Army General Command.

When they were in the hands of Peru's military personnel, the journalists were subjected to innumerable [word indistinct] and endured psychological pressure and heard threats about execution by firing squad, immersions in water, and [words indistinct].

The journalists were accused of being intelligence agents [words indistinct] that journalists could not have.

The attacked journalists were [words indistinct].

The Foreign Ministry said that actions such as this are an attack on the physical integrity of two persons and on the freedom of the press and go against the search for a peaceful understanding between the two countries.

This regrettable incident is in contrast with the concern with which the Quito Government contributes to the work of Peruvian journalists in Ecuador and with the respect shown to two Peruvian correspondents who were attacked, in an isolated case, without any serious consequences by unidentified persons under vague circumstances.

The Foreign Ministry said [words indistinct]. This is how this communique that has been disseminated [words indistinct] concludes.

Indian Leader Claims Peru Using 'Toxic Bombs'

PA1302202895 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Feb 95

[Report by Edwin Chamorro from the Government Palace in Quito]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rafael Pandam, vice president of the Confederation of Indian Nationalities of Ecuador, Conaie, came by the Presidential Palace to coordinate assistance for the Shuar Indians, who have been affected by the Ecuador-Peru conflict. Here is a statement by Rafael Pandam to the media.

[Begin recording] [Pandam, in progress] ...we are coordinating direct assistance for the Shuar and Shuar-Quechua communities along the border area that have been bombed. At this point, we are seeing the consequences on the civilian communities that have been bombed. We received some unofficial information this morning. This morning, representatives of our communities told us on the telephone that toxic bombs—toxic gases—were used to bomb our communities on Saturday morning. These sources stated that as a result of these toxic gases, one woman has died and children have been poisoned.

We are traveling to the area today to take medicines and food. To do this, we must coordinate with the authorities at the Presidency to obtain a safe-conduct. We have received a positive response, and this afternoon, we will be heading to the border to confirm the consequences or damages suffered by the communities.

[Unidentified reporter] Which communities have been bombed?

[Pandam] The civilian populations of Tihuinza, Paqui-Entza, which are places where such civilian Shuar communities live. Some 21 communities have been vacated, but others have remained. The approximate total number of people there is 8,400 people, and they are at risk because of these toxic bombs. Although consequences have not been reported, there could be consequences in the future and we must be prepared. We should coordinate with high-level military and civilian authorities and with the local and international media so that this situation—the nature of weapons being used by the aggressor Peruvian Government and Armed Forces—is known.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Pandam] This happened on Saturday. The consequences of this incident are not immediate, but the air and the water was polluted because of these toxic substances. As people drink this water and breathe this air, we will see the gradual effects. These effects will be more serious, however, because we do not know how many lives will be at risk because of the toxic bombs used by Peru. [end recording]

Duran-Ballen: No Airplane Shot Down by Peru

PA1402001195 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Feb 95

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen has said no Ecuadoran airplane has been downed by Peru. In saying so, the Ecuadoran president has contradicted Lima reports stating three airplanes have been downed.

During an exclusive interview with EFE in the presidential airplane, Duran-Ballen also said that his troops have retreated not one single step and that they are maintaining their positions in the border detachments of Coangos, Base Sur, and Tihuinza, contrary to what Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori has affirmed.

Duran-Ballen did admit a wing of an Ecuadoran A-37 airplane was damaged on 12 February. He said, though, the airplane landed safely at an air base and is being repaired.

There has been no other Ecuadoran Air Force casualty, Sixto Duran-Ballen has said.

Ecuador has affirmed its troops have downed four Peruvian combat planes and four helicopters since the fighting on the border started.

On the situation at the war front, in the Amazon jungle, the president has said the Peruvians are still attacking and are suffering many more casualties than the Ecuadoreans.

Joint Command Issues Communique on Damaged Aircraft

PA1402034495 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 0233 GMT 14 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A communique stating the following was issued at six o'clock this evening by the Armed Forces Joint Command:

First, in light of information originating from Peru, disclosed by the country's media, on the downing of two Ecuadoran aircraft, this Joint Command confirms the information announced earlier regarding an Ecuadoran aircraft being hit by Peruvian antiaircraft fire. The Command states, however, that it was able to return to its base without any further complications. In no way will the Joint Command waver from its adopted line of action; that is, to announce the truth of events to the country's public opinion.

Second, there have been constant clashes during the morning and afternoon hours between patrols from both armies in the conflict area, particularly in Cueva de los Tayos, Base Sur, and Tihuinza. These same regions have been subjected to mortar and 105-mm artillery fire that are being used in the zone. The troops have responded in a like manner, repelling the attacks launched by Peruvian patrols.

Third, there has been no air activity by either forces in the conflict region throughout this day.

Fourth, the consolidated number of casualties to date is as follows: killed in action, 10; wounded in action, 37.

Communication Secretary: Ecuadoran People Want Peace

PA1402011395 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Feb 95

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Enrique Proano, state communication national secretary [secretario nacional de comunicacion del estado], has said the Ecuadoran people want peace, because they are neither warmongers nor warriors, but this characteristic does not mean they are not capable of defending themselves; it means they know this regrettable border incident could have other consequences, he has said.

Proano has said Ecuador is waging a defensive type warfare at the military front, because it has never been an aggressor and will never be the aggressor. The country has secured the objectives it had from the beginning and is maintaining the highest Cenepa lands and its positions, evidence that the military front has responded positively to its mission to defend Ecuador's territorial integrity.

On the diplomatic front, Proano has said his country has always been one step ahead in this conflict. From the beginning, President Sixto Duran-Ballen has personally explained Ecuador's position to the presidents of the guarantor countries. In addition, the Ecuadoran president dedicates much time to maintaining international contacts by telephone and personal dialogues with diplomats accredited to Quito, and he does not discard any endeavor that could lead to an immediate solution fair to the country.

Enrique Proano has said Ecuador has objectively reported, above all, the truth, as the national and foreign public opinion deserves. Ecuador has tried to face a misinformation offensive from the Peruvian media, he has said.

Proano has also said the Peruvian people have proclaimed their desire for a peaceful solution, but they have been obstructed by the political position of President Fujimori, who is ensnared and looking for a victory to try to win the elections. We are not the ones saying this remark, Proano has said. This statement has been said by Mario and Alvaro Vargas Llosa, wife of the president, and certain Peruvian media. This reason is why he is in a snare.

Proano has said lights are beginning to appear and could definitely lead soon to a diplomatic agreement and a cease-fire and, afterward, to a negotiations table and a search for a definite solution to this conflict.

Proano has said President Duran-Ballen's actions so far have been absolutely clear and just, in line with national objectives, as has been made evident on the diplomatic, military, and informative fronts. Proano concluded by saying: These actions demonstrate the open and truthful behavior of the Ecuadoran president before the Ecuadoran people.

Costa Rica's Arias Prepared To Mediate Conflict

PA1402051095 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 0352 GMT 14 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Oscar Arias, former Costa Rican president and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Monday described the armed confrontation between Ecuador and Peru over a strip of land as absurd and said history will condemn this war.

In a telephone conversation with Radio Caracol, of Colombia, Arias said he is prepared to mediate to find a political solution to the conflict but cautioned such mediation would have to be accepted by the two governments.

The former Costa Rican president, who received the Nobel prize in 1987, confirmed he has spoken by telephone with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who told him he is prepared to seek a negotiated agreement to the conflict as long as the two sides agree to this.

This was Arias' response to Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen's suggestion that Carter and Arias could lend their services to put an end to the fighting that Ecuadoran and Peruvian forces are waging in the Condor Mountain Range.

According to Lima reports, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori has said his government will accept no mediation other than that of the four country guarantors of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States. This reason is why Arias was emphatic in saying if President Fujimori does not accept an effort by Carter and himself, the mediation will not be possible.

Evacuees in Loja Number 12,000

95SM0188A(INTERNET) FOREIGN MINISTRY GOPHER in Spanish 10 Feb 95 pp 1-3

[Article by Thalia Flores from Quito HOY 8 Feb 95]

[FBIS Translated Text] Loja, 8 February 1995—Twelve thousand humble Ecuadoreans—mostly women, children, and old people—are the victims of this unjust military conflict that was provoked by Peru's invasion. Taking with them only the clothes they were wearing and a "small basket with a few other things," these fellow countrymen from Loja Province had to be evacuated to safe sites for their physical safety—as a precautionary measure—despite the fact that they had to leave behind all their belongings, all their worldly goods.

The chief civilian official of Loja District, Manuel Salinas, said today that the census of the evacuees from Macara canton was concluded yesterday, Tuesday. These evacuees were given shelter at local schools in the towns of Sozoranga, Fabiango, Larama, and Catacocha, while those from Zapotillo canton were relocated to the towns of Pindal, Alamor, Pozul, Celica, and the city of Loja.

But even though their lives have been protected, survival has become a tragedy for the evacuees because of the lack of fresh food, hot meals, clothing, and medicine—a situation that has been made worse by the inclement rainy weather that is afflicting the region. And although they have been provided with basic rations and medicines, their numbers have exceeded the organizational capacity of the civil defense and provincial government authorities, who only now are coordinating their efforts to ensure a daily supply of food for the evacuees, including prepared meals. In the meantime, clothing and medicines have begun to be collected for distribution among the evacuees.

"We Will Stay Here"

The situation becomes worse for the evacuees with every day that passes. They miss their homes and villages and are having to do without drinking water or even latrines. The lack of these facilities has led to the appearance of the initial symptoms of certain illnesses that are caused by the unhealthful conditions—notably diarrhea among the children and influenza among the adults—and by the change of climate and the congested conditions in which these humble families are living. To counteract these deficiencies, the IEOS [expansion not given] will within the next few days begin to install latrines and the Ministry of Health will supply chlorine to purify the water.

"We shall stay here, because here we are nearer our husbands and sons who stayed behind and are defending the border," one mother was heard to say when the evacuees were advised that they could move to [the city of] Loja so that they could be given better care. She was crying profusely, because, she said, "I miss my garden plots and also my animals, who were left outdoors."

Telethon

Meanwhile, the civil defense organization, the provincial government, and various social organizations in Loja will conduct a telethon from 1000 to 2000 hours today to collect mainly food, clothing, and utensils for the personal benefit of these humble evacuee families. The chief civilian official of Loja made a dramatic appeal to the public to contribute—in addition to food—pieces of heavy plastic two meters in diameter for use as ponchos by the soldiers and police who are guarding the border zone and the sites where the evacuees are staying.

"The rain comes down in buckets here," said a young woman evacuee who misses her home and the small farm plots that she cultivates near Macara. "Everything that I possess is there," she said.

The Face of the War

"My Beautiful Ecuador" is the melody that accompanies the evacuees from the border region of Loja Province. The song—which has become a symbol of their patriotism—is repeated constantly over the transistor radios that they have brought with them.

INNFA [expansion not given], ORI [expansion not given], and the civil defense organization are cooperating in caring for the children, who are the most seriously impacted by the congested conditions in which they are living.

Over the weekend Health Minister Alfredo Palacio also delivered a large quantity of medicines in an effort to prevent an outbreak of any disease.

While the children play and distract themselves with any object available, their mothers prepare the food and wash the few articles of clothing that they were wearing when they so abruptly left their homes.

The women's faces reflect their anxiety over the present and future of their families and the harshness of their present existence.

According to the journalists of Radio "Sentinel of the South," life is almost normal in Loja—capital of the province of the same name—even as the entire world is talking about the border conflict.

The radio stations are devoting much time to their newscasts and are keeping the public informed about the situation.

In addition to the extraordinary measures now in effect in the province—which include a dry law and strict control of the civilian population—the police are constantly patrolling streets and access roads.

The biggest item of recent news is the fact that fresh military personnel are constantly being transferred to the border detachments.

"We are working around the clock, but our effort is minimal compared to the sacrifice that those who are in the line of fire—and the humble displaced families—are making," the chief civilian official of Loja said.

Peru

Foreign Ministry Announces Unilateral Cease-Fire

PY1402015595 Lima America Television Network in Spanish 0132 GMT 14 Feb 95

[Communique No. 0695 issued by the Foreign Ministry in Lima on 14 February—ready by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] We have an official communique from the Peruvian Foreign Ministry announcing a cease-fire. America Television was the first to report on the beginning of military actions in the northern border region. We now have the satisfaction of being the first to report that the Government of Peru, in a clear demonstration of its desire for peace and its decision to limit the military actions to the eviction of the foreign forces that entered Peruvian territory, reports the following:

1. Peru declares a unilateral cease-fire in the zone of confrontation with Ecuador as of 1200 Lima and Quito time [1700 GMT] on 14 February 1995. The Peruvian Government calls for the cooperation of the Ecuadoran Government to prevent more bloodshed among brother nations.

2. In the same sense, the Peruvian Government invites a mission of observers from the guarantor countries to verify the fulfillment of the cease-fire and the restoration of peace.

3. The President of the Republic will convey this decision to the government of the guarantor countries, reiterating its gratitude for their valuable efforts in carrying out their responsibility as established in the Rio de Janeiro Protocol.

4. Peru renews its confidence that the guarantor countries will continue to provide their active participation toward achieving a lasting solution, until the full enforcement of the 1942 Rio de Janeiro Protocol.

[dated] Lima, 13 February 1995.

This is official Communique No. 0695.

Fujimori Announces Cease-Fire

PY1402042195 Lima America Television Network in Spanish 0303 GMT 14 Feb 95

[Address to the nation by President Alberto Fujimori from Lima—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear fellow countrymen, good evening. A long and tense wait has concluded today with the dislodging of Ecuadoran troops from our territory. For three weeks Peru has had to mobilize its Armed Forces to reestablish its national sovereignty, although acting with the prudence that corresponds to the behavior of a people who love peace and respect international treaties. This prudence has not been and will never be a synonym for weakness or improvisation.

It must not be doubted that a global strategy was applied in this conflict, which evidently had to be surrounded by a necessary reservation. In a conflict of this kind, countries cannot reveal the elements of their strategy. That is how our actions were handled in both the military and diplomatic fields, in answer to a plan that was preconceived by some Ecuadoran groups.

The strategy and action of Peru—I must point this out emphatically—was fruitful because we experienced national unity in the defense of our sovereignty. As president of the Republic the opposition has not caused me greater concerns or distractions.

As president and citizen I must congratulate myself for the fact that institutions and associations grouping together professionals, workers, and youths, and even candidates for president of the Republic, political leaders, and intellectuals, closed ranks in face of this aggression. I repeat, this attitude has allowed me to concentrate my energies on the task and responsibility that corresponds to me as supreme chief of the Armed Forces.

Peru was not and will not be affected economically as a consequence of this conflict. The national reconstruction process has not been threatened. The electoral timetable will also not be affected. These elements of our international image must, rather, be reinforced from now on.

In this conflict, which was not provoked by Peru, we must regret the loss of human lives on both sides. On our side we must honor the memory of 38 brave Peruvian soldiers who have shown courage and heroism following the example of Francisco Bolognesi [Peruvian colonel who died defending Arica 1816-1880]. They are 38 Peruvian heroes. The virtues of the Peruvian soldiers were professionalism and courage, which were tested in such an arena as the Condor mountain range, which was an arena of enormous difficulties. Such a platform did not, however, prevent final victory for our weapons.

Under the most difficult natural and geographical conditions that can be imagined, we advanced during this week of struggle and dignity, beginning with the recovery of the so-called Cueva de los Tayos, then Base Sur, and finally what constitutes a symbol of national sovereignty: Tihuinza.

The whole of Peru should know that at this moment the Ecuadoran troops established in our territory have been dislodged.

Having restored our sovereignty and as a sign of our permanent desire for peace, we unilaterally declare a cease-fire as of 1200 [1700 GMT] tomorrow, Tuesday, 14 February.

Peru hopes the Ecuadoran Government will react positively to this demonstration of good will and prudence. Only thus will we be able to jointly make progress toward a definite solution within the framework of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol.

The Peruvian Government expresses its gratitude for the will and good disposition shown throughout this regretful conflict by the guarantor countries in their search for a definite solution.

Dear fellow countrymen: How much sacrifice was demanded from our soldiers to once again fly our flag in the midst of that wild territory that undoubtedly belongs to us. There again stands the glorious flag of [Peruvian forefathers] Bolognesi, Grau, and Quinonez, because that is where it belongs.

Glory forever to the brave heroes of the Cenepa, who died defending our territorial integrity. Long live our Armed Forces! Long live Peru! Good night fellow countrymen.

20 Tanks Leave for Battlefront Via Ilo

PY1302150695 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1443 GMT 13 Feb 95

[Live relay by Eduardo Arias from Moquegua]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some 20 tanks from the 211th Commando Battalion have been transported to Ilo Port, from where they will be shipped to the conflict area. Another contingent of Moqueguan soldiers have departed to defend the fatherland. As in other cities, they were seen off by local residents amidst vivas and applause.

On their way out of Moquegua, the soldiers were encouraged by their relatives and friends who gave them preserves, bread, fruit, and other products. With high morale and ready to defend Peruvian sovereignty, they left aboard vehicles as the 3d Armored Division band played military marches and the Army anthem.

Troops Transported to Northern Region 11-13 Feb

PY1302182695 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1735 GMT 13 Feb 95

[Live phone relay by Mario Cueto Cardenas in Ayacucho]

[FBIS Translated Text] Peruvian Army contingents today boarded five FAP [Peruvian Air Force] flights to be transported to towns on the Peruvian-Ecuadoran border.

The mobilization of troops began on Saturday, continued on Sunday and ended today. A total of 1.500

troops were mobilized to the northern region. In addition, other troop contingents remain alert to any eventual future developments.

Moreover, the marches and rallies being staged in support of the Armed Forces and the defense of national sovereignty continue to take place in several provinces of this department, such as Puquio, in (?Tucanas) province. A large rally was held in Puquio that encompassed a flag raising ceremony headed by Engineer Felix Zavala Cruz, in the Libertador (Rodriguez Zubary) regional agricultural department.

Peruvian Troops Crossing Mine Fields at Tihuinza

PY1402003195 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2345 GMT 13 Feb 95

[Live telephone relay by Ismael Byron Horna from the military base El Milagro]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] Byron Horna, good evening.

[Horna] Good evening, "Directo en Directo." This is a report from the military base El Milagro. The temperature now in Uchubamba Province, Amazonas Department, is 37 degrees centigrade.

We have a last-minute report. Peruvian troops are crossing the mine fields at Tihuinza. The soldiers are detonating the mines with a system that has not been revealed because it is classified information.

We have been informed that the Ecuadoran air attacks against Peruvian units have ceased due to the air and ground offensive launched by Peru to down the Ecuadoran fighter bombers. Meanwhile, in Imasa District, Amazonas Department, 52 mothers of soldiers who died in combat have organized mothers' clubs to organize soup kitchens to feed the troops sailing up the Maranon River to the port of Imacita and up the Cenepa River to the combat zone. [passage omitted]

Congressman: Ecuador 'About To Be Dislodged' From Tihuinza

PY1402000795 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2234 GMT 13 Feb 95

[Report by Eduardo Lindo Collantes from Congress]

[FBIS Translated Text] Good afternoon. Right now, at 1734, the CCD [Democratic Constituent Congress] leadership council has just begun meeting here, under the presidency of Jaime Yoshiyama Tanaka from Change-90, to decide who will join the mission visiting the front, and who will travel abroad to report on the Peruvian position regarding the armed conflict with Ecuador.

As for the border conflict, the following are statements by Congressman Fernando Olivera Vega [Independent Moralization Front], who has just returned from the combat zone.

[Begin recording] [Olivera] The situation yesterday was that the base at Tihuinza was practically surrounded, and the Ecuadoreans were just about to be dislodged. I think that in the next few hours this will be confirmed, and therefore the observers can immediately arrive here together with congressional missions and reporters to witness a definite cease-fire without the presence of Ecuadoran troops in Peruvian territory.

[Collantes] The possibility that the conflict might be extended to other border zones has been mentioned.

[Olivera] I do not think this will happen, because the Ecuadoreans must be reconsidering things and pondering their future actions, as the Peruvian Armed Forces are definitively settled in the area, and I am completely sure that given the courage of our soldiers and the professionalism of our Armed Forces officers, we will definitively expel the Ecuadoreans. I think they need to seriously ponder the steps they will follow. [end recording]

Cease-Fire Due To Recovery of Tihuinza

PY1402020595 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0145 GMT 14 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This is a last-minute report. A few minutes ago our Foreign Ministry, in an official communique, reported that Peru has declared a unilateral cease-fire in the northern border region. The government reportedly made this decision because the Tihuinza base was allegedly recovered a few hours ago. This was a last-minute report.

Military Reports Downing of Third Ecuadoran Plane

PY1302200595 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1905 GMT 13 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Military spokesmen at the El Milagro military base in Bagua reported today that a third Ecuadoran airplane was shot down on 12 February by Peruvian forces. The military sources also disclosed that Peruvian forces are bombing the Ecuadoran observation post Condor Mirador.

[Madrid EFE in Spanish on 13 February at 1850 GMT transmits a Lima-datelined report which adds: "Peruvian forces shot down today an Ecuadoran Israeli-made K-fir airplane." The report adds: "The airplane was reportedly hit by a ground-to-air missile, and crashed at an undetermined point between the Peruvian military posts Base Sur and Watch Post One."]

Bagua Battlefront Situation Described

PY1302162595 Lima America Television Network in Spanish 1315 GMT 13 Feb 95

[Live phone relay by Nicolas Lucar from Bagua]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Lucar] It has been very impressive to see the deployment of troops and helicopters. It is really impressive. Yesterday I made a comparison: I said it was as if all of a sudden we were in the middle of the Vietnam War. I swear I have never seen anything similar. It was like in the movies. We have been asked not to report what we have seen because we are at war and some previous reports have created difficulties. We were asked not to report our location or the military bases we have been visiting. At least for the last few days, during which so many important clashes have occurred at each one of the visited sites, we were asked to not comment because our reports may be used by the enemy for military objectives.

We have been very, very close to the front. We have spoken to soldiers who have returned from the battlefront. We were going to enter Cueva de Los Tayos yesterday. It can only be reached on foot, after hours of walking, and this is what we were getting ready to do. We did not sleep at all the night of 11 February. No one can sleep here because there are risks of bomb attacks and other surprise attacks. One has to be ready for all that. The war front command recommended that we did not enter the front zone and remained in a secure zone because clashes were occurring all the time and we would be at risk. We protested the decision, but the war command was right because the two planes that were downed yesterday were downed exactly in the Los Tayos area.

[Unidentified announcer] About these two planes, Maria Elena Belaunde contacted us this morning, and said Ecuador does not admit having lost these two planes. What can you tell us about that?

[Lucar] We first heard of this incident directly from soldiers who had been at the front. This was the first report we had on the evacuation of some soldiers and injured people. The soldiers reported that they had seen a plane explode in the air and that another had been hit in the tail. They did not see this plane crash but they could see that it had gone out of control. This was the initial news we received. Then we were told about the downing by pilots and other people who left the front yesterday afternoon after 1800. The news they brought was identical: a plane had undoubtedly been hit. Unfortunately I cannot give you official news because I have not received any. The soldiers said they had seen the Kfir plane being downed with their own eyes. According to the pilots' description it was a Kfir plane.

[Announcer] The news was so fresh and spontaneous it would be impossible to doubt it, right?

[Lucar] Yes, impossible. There is something surprising going on here: the morale of soldiers and pilots who have been fighting here is very high. In addition, as they are fighting in Peruvian territory, these young men are motivated to conquer the area on the other side of the border. By achieving that they would help to swiftly end this conflict because the Ecuadoran supplies, facilities, and logistic support are on the other side of the border. I was very surprised, however, because one of the first things everyone told me right upon arriving is that they did not cross to the other side [interference], as they say, to step on the little wooden pole. They said the Protocol established a border and that they respect this border. They also asked about what was happening to the negotiations being held in Brazil. I was really surprised at their maturity, enthusiasm, and willingness to fight, as well as their conviction that they will win this fight. I was also surprised at the level of responsibility with which the issue is being treated. I think it must be difficult for the pilots not to cross to the other side [interference] and bring this about.

[Announcer] That is true. To end this relay, would you please tell us how much longer you will stay there?

[Lucar] We have been waiting to enter Cueva Los Tayos. This is our objective: to enter the first recovered watch post. We have been told, however, that this would represent risks because, as you well know, Base Sur and Cueva Los Tayos have been recovered. In the middle of the battle for Tihuinza there are incursions. They do not reach, however, the areas of Los Tayos and Base Sur, and even Watch Post 1, which is the most important Peruvian post in the area. Therefore, we have been waiting for the opportunity to enter the area. I don't know whether it will be today or tomorrow, but we will remain here.

[Announcer] Well, we know you will report to us at the appropriate moment, therefore, thank you very much for this report. We wish you every good fortune during your days at the battlefront.

Ecuador Requests Swap of 2 Security Agents for 36 Civilians

PY1302220595 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1509 GMT 13 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lima, 13 Feb (EFE)—According to a Peruvian television report today, Ecuador has proposed to Peru that two alleged Ecuadoran security agents taken prisoner in the border town of Tumbes be swapped for 36 Peruvian civilians detained in Ecuadoran territory.

According to the America Television network, the two Ecuadoreans were detained while filming Peruvian public facilities last weekend in Tumbes, where they arrived after having spent some days in Talara.

According to the television channel, which did not reveal their names, "the two individuals seem to be important agents of the Ecuadoran intelligence service," because Ecuadoran authorities have offered to swap them for 36 Peruvians detained in that country. [passage omitted]

A few days ago the Peruvian Foreign Ministry disclosed that at least 130 Peruvians have been detained during the past two weeks in the Ecuadoran towns of Quito, Loja, Machala, and Huaquillas, the last one on the border across from the Peruvian town of Tumbes. [passage omitted]

Peruvian TV Broadcasts Video on Border Conflict

PY1302215995

[FBIS Editorial Report] Lima America Television Network in Spanish broadcasts during its regular "Primera Plana" newscast at 0100 GMT on 11 February the following material related to the Peruvian-Ecuadoran border conflict:

A three-minute clip is broadcast on visits made by General Nicolas de Bari Hermoza Rios, chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Command, and the commanders in chief of the Navy and the Air Force to Zarumilla, El Papayal, and Quebrada Grande near the front line. While the announcer says off-camera that Gen. Hermoza had found troop morale to be high, the camera shows pan shots of assembled soldiers shouting patriotic slogans and enthusiastic members of the public, and medium shots of Gen. Hermoza encouraging the troops.

The following 1.5-minute clip is a video report from El Milagro base that begins with long shots of the arrivals of planes and helicopters, and pan shots showing the training of reserve troops, while off-camera the announcer says that they have arrived anxious to contribute to the battle effort. Close-up shots are provided of trucks laden with food, while the announcer explains that they have been donated by the local residents, while pan shots are shown of civilians waving Peruvian flags and shouting "Peru, Peru."

The station next airs a 4.5-minute announcer-read report from Tumbes on a visit paid by Gen. Hermoza intended "to calm down the public" that is worried by a recent bombing drill, the constant arrival of materiel, and other military preparations. The reporter says that although the people are still worried, shortages have been overcome.

A three-minute video report is then broadcast on the Peruvian missions that are preparing to go abroad to explain "the truth" about the conflict with Ecuador in various American and European countries. A clip includes brief interviews with two members of these missions, who say that the objective is to "counteract Ecuador's disinformation campaign."

The station then airs a two-minute video report on President Alberto Fujimori signing the Declaration of Cumana brought to him by the Venezuelan ambassador. Fujimori is shown signing the declaration, while off-camera a reporter says that throughout the ceremony the president was being kept aware of developments on the battle front.

A five-minute video "special report" from Quito by "special correspondent" Maria Elena Belaunde is then broadcast on Ecuadoreans who are beginning to feel the effects of the conflict, such as a special tax on cars and electricity rationing. The clip includes brief interviews with drivers, who unanimously say that this is the least they can do for their country and their Armed Forces. Belaunde explains that a decree is in the works by which Ecuadoreans will have to reduce their consumption of electricity by 10 percent, or pay double the amount on the bill, that radio and television stations will go off the air at 2300 local time, and that one out of three street lights will be turned off. An unidentified person is interviewed on the economic consequences of the conflict. He says that these consequences will be serious, and inflation will be fueled. The reporter says that Ecuadoran public servants have contributed two days of salary to the military effort. The video report also includes a clip from Ecuadoran television showing two "alleged" Peruvian soldiers who have surrendered, while the reporter explains that Ecuadoran news media are reporting that Peruvian soldiers are surrendering all along the front line. In the clip the soldiers blame President Fujimori for the conflict, and say that they have "not been mistreated" by the Ecuadoreans. The reporter concludes by saying that "provided they are really Peruvian soldiers, their remarks must be prompted by fears for their safety, because their attitude is very different from what we see in Peru every day."

The station announcer then reads a one-minute report on the latest development in the negotiations in Brazil, where the guarantor countries have reiterated their willingness to send a mission to oversee the cease-fire. This is followed by a four-minute live telephone report from Quito correspondent Belaunde, who is asked if the Ecuadoran press have been reporting this latest development in the negotiations. Belaunde answers that this report has not been made available in Ecuador, adding that Ecuadoran news media concentrate on criticizing President Fujimori for not accepting Ecuador's offer for a humanitarian truce. Belaunde adds that Ecuadoran television is broadcasting "heavily distorted" reports from its correspondents in Lima, and giving a lot of coverage to anti-Peruvian articles by writer Mario Vargas Llosa, his son, and journalist Hildebrandt. Asked whether there is evidence that the soldiers that were shown on Ecuadoran television are really Peruvians, Belaunde answers that there is no such evidence, and that she hopes that as they were identified by screen captions it will be possible to check up in Peru whether they are indeed Peruvian soldiers.

An announcer-read report over video is then broadcast noting that 5,000 women, youngsters, and members of peasant defense patrols demonstrated their support for the government. Crowds are shown marching and waving Peruvian flags, while the announcer says that local authorities had declared 10 February a nonworking day, and shopkeepers closed their businesses to participate in the demonstration.

An announcer-read one-minute report over video from Arequipa is then aired, indicating that rumors of the displacement of locally stationed troops and materiel to the area of conflict are false, while the camera shows soldiers marching and a multiple rocket-launcher firing.

An announcer-read one-minute report over video indicates that customs have donated seven tons of goods confiscated "largely from Ecuadoran smugglers" to the military effort, while the camera shows trucks being loaded. The announcer adds that customs employees have also donated one day of salary for the military effort.

The station announcer then introduces a Radio e Televisione Italiana, RAI, five-minute clip, explaining that it is shown courtesy of RAI correspondents in the theater of operations, and will show unedited film on "the fighting in the area of Watch Post One." The clip shows soldiers moving through the forest, the landing of helicopters and planes, troops taking position to protect the landings, medium-range shots of wounded soldiers in hospitals, closeups of individual soldiers, and pan shots of smiling soldiers making the victory sign and shaking their fists and guns.

The station announcer then reads a one-minute summary of a letter from a Peruvian University rector expressing concern over how Peruvian students are being mistreated in Ecuadoran universities, asking that steps be taken to facilitate the admittance of these students to Peruvian universities.

Fujimori Interviewed on Conflict With Ecuador

PY1302063895 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0220 GMT 13 Feb 95

[Interview with Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori by Guido Lombardi, "Panorama" program host, in Lima—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Lombardi] The president of the Republic, engineer Alberto Fujimori, has arrived at the "Panorama" studios carrying documents, models, and maps to explain to us in detail what is happening at our northern border. Good evening, Mr. President.

[Fujimori] Good evening.

[Lombardi] Thank you for coming. James Brooke, NEW YORK TIMES correspondent in Lima, has characterized you as the Peruvian Patton. In his news dispatch for the newspaper, Brooke described you as the director of the Peruvian war strategy. Are you conducting the war?

[Fujimori] As commander in chief of the Armed Forces, it is my duty to give general guidelines, but as president of the Republic I am in charge of the overall strategy of this entire, quote, problem, unquote, with Ecuador. I, of course, am quite well informed. Every hour I receive reports on developments on the battlefront and I am thus able to make decisions.

[Lombardi] You are being informed every hour. As commander in chief of the Armed Forces, I would like to ask you to inform the nation through "Panorama" about the latest report you received on the fighting, engineer Fujimori.

[Fujimori] The latest report came at 1730 this afternoon. In reality, the fighting continues. Our troops were then on the hills adjacent to the highest hill of Tihuinza. They started an assault this morning. The assault is fully under way now. This is going to take hours, it is true, ...

[Lombardi, interrupts] Hours or days. A final assault has been announced for several days, perhaps with excessive optimism.

[Fujimori] No. I have said that this would be slow, but sure. I believe this is the way it should be described in light of the type of terrain in which we are operating.

Thus, our forces are in combat, they are close to the enemy lines. They are very close, at rifle shooting range.

[Lombardi] [sentence indistinct]

[Fujimori] Today we evacuated 10 wounded men; no one was killed in this action. None of the wounded suffered serious injuries.

[Lombardi] Could you confirm the report with which we opened our program today; that is, that Peruvian antiaircraft fire has downed two Ecuadoran planes?

[Fujimori] Yes, that is right. Missiles were used to shoot down two planes. One is an A-37 aircraft, which is similar to the ones we have, and the other is an Israeli-made Kfir...

[Lombardi] This is the Mirage version made in Israel.

[Fujimori] It is the version of the Mi-5, right?

[Lombardi] They shot down three Peruvian planes. You can confirm that, right? This air battle, or at least having an intense air force participation, does this not risk an escalation of the conflict?

[Fujimori] Fortunately, for our quest for peace, there have been no air battles, but rather there has been air support for the ground forces, both by Peru and Ecuador. The planes were shot down with surface-to-air missiles. No air-to-air missiles have been used. A confrontation among fighter planes could aggravate the situation and we are trying to avoid this.

[Lombardi] Do you fear the risk of being the president who is conducting the war because you will later be required to conduct peace, dialogue, too. Someone said this morning that because of our history and geographic situation we are bound to deal with Ecuador for centuries to come. When that coexistence becomes peaceful, do you feel that you—who have conducted the war, we hope successfully for us—could also play the role of the man who will need to engage in a dialogue and to resolve things?

[Fujimori] In fact no one should look at only one aspect of this problem. I compare this to our antiterrorist struggle, which not only entails the military, prison, courts, or psychological aspects, but an overall strategy which, in this case, should be applied regarding Ecuador to promote a final understanding. We obviously cannot coexist with terrorism, nor could we coexist with such a long-running dispute between the two countries. Our strategy thus consists of two simple goals: one, the short-term one, is to evict all the Ecuadoran troops from our territory, especially from the upper Cenepa area. This is the immediate, short-term objective of our strategy. The second one is the medium-term objective, which will require that we sit at the negotiating table to make an international treaty prevail. This will include the demarcation of the unmarked stretch of our border, which we will explain later.

Thus we have two objectives: the first one is the eviction and the second one is the demarcation....

[Lombardi] Final.

[Fujimori] It should be final so that we no longer have problems.

[Lombardi] What deadline would you estimate for those two national objectives?

[Fujimori] The short-term one should be soon, in the face of...

[Lombardi,interrupts] Twenty-four hours, a week, 10 days...

[Fujimori] Well, I do not want to anticipate anything or to tell a lie. I would rather act...

[Lombardi]...slowly but surely.

[Fujimori]...based on facts so that I may say: This is where we stand. Regarding the medium-term objective, this requires a true strategy, slow work and negotiations by the Foreign Ministry, in conjunction with...

[Lombardi] Yet, it is still an objective that we must address urgently. We should not leave it for the next century.

[Fujimori] No, it should be addressed as soon as possible. I would like to mention, however, the diplomatic success obtained by the Foreign Ministry in making Ecuador, after 35 years, sit at a negotiating table with the four guarantor countries—not with friendly countries, as we used to call them.

[Lombardi] That has undoubtedly been an undisputable success of the Peruvian diplomacy. Perhaps we may also reflect an Ecuadoran strategy. I would like to hear your comments about the first objective: to evict them from Tihuinza. Couldn't the Ecuadorans infiltrate our territory through any other point or locality along our 1,700 km border?

[Fujimori] Infiltrations could occur. We need the final demarcation of this stretch. We have to be much more alert about this possibility. Our borderline with Ecuador is 1,700 km. It is very difficult to keep a close surveillance over such a long border. Even Peruvian troops could—not infiltrate, but get lost at the Ecuadoran border. I myself almost got lost at the border with Ecuador in the area of Tacahual.

[Lombardi] How many years ago?

[Fujimori] About 18 months ago. It is then difficult to see things....[changes thought] it is easy to speak, but one should go to the field to determine whether [words indinstinct].

[Lombardi] Mr. President, you have emphatically stated that there can be no solution outside the Rio de Janeiro Protocol. Bear with me, please, because I am perhaps acting as the devil's advocate here. After 53 years, the Rio de Janeiro Protocol has not given us our right. As we are seeking to conform to it, the protocol talks about mutual concessions. We are seeking the medium-term objective—that is, a final demarcation and peace, which would allow us to fight against our true enemies: poverty, undervelopment, and hunger. What concessions could Peru make to achieve peace, to show that we are not only seeking to achieve victory based on our greater military might. Thank God Peru advocates peace and peaceful coexistence.

[Fujimori] [passage indistinct] In reality, I have already explained that under the Rio Protocol, more than 1,600 km of our border have been demarcated. When approximately 78 km remained to be demarcated, Ecuador declared the protocol unenforceable. This happened between 1951 and 1960. In 1960, Ecuador declared the protocol to be null. Since 1960, Ecuador has stubbornly maintained its position of regarding the protocol as null.

By sending its representative to the negotiating table....

[Lombardi] Mr. Fernandez de Cordoba.

[Fujimori] ....Fernandez de Cordoba, the administration of President Duran-Ballen has recognized the validity of the Rio Protocol. The fact that in 53 years we have not achieved 100 percent success—let us say that our success rate stood at 95 percent—does not mean that we are moving backwards. We must persist in negotiating within the framework of the Rio Protocol, because this is an international treaty, and all countries—especially the guarantor countries—are the ones that must guarantee the enforcement of the protocol. I will now respond to your question. The issue here is not military power. What we are trying to do here is to defend our sovereignty, our territory, because we are not going to allow the Ecuadoreans to invade Peru.

What concessions could Peru make, you asked. Article nine of the protocol talks about mutual and reciprocal concessions. This provision alludes to when one goes to the field and, for instance, the award issued by Dias de

Aguiar mentions that the top of the Condor Mountain Range is in a straight line. When you go to the top of a mountain, one part of it could be rather flat, but one cannot say there, well you move 50 meters over there, and we will move 30 meters over here, and so forth. These are mutual concessions granted on the field for demarcation purposes only. In this case, the limit has been established. There is also an important background to this. It is worth looking at a map.

[Lombardi] About that background, engineer, I would like to ask you what would happen if a straight line were used in the 78 km undemarcated stretch of our border. Would this entail many mutual concessions? Would this be acceptable to Peru?

[Fujimori] It would not be acceptable. It would mean surrendering part of our territory, and we are not...

[Lombardi] Where would the straight line go?

[Fujimori] It would go from the Cunhuima Sur marker to the 20 de Noviembre marker.

[Lombardi] We would lose that peak there then.

[Fujimori] This peak...

[Lombardi, interrupting] ...is the source of the Cenepa River, where the Ecuadoreans are now located.

[Fujimori] That finger-shaped segment—which you can see magnified here—goes through the peaks of the Condor mountain range, passes through the Ecuadoran watch post Coangos up to the 20 de Noviembre marker. The demarcation is already complete from 20 de Noviembre to Yaupi Santiago and from Cunhuima Sur to the ocean. These two markers are in the Condor mountain range, which is a natural limit. There can be absolutely no dispute here.

Yesterday I told an Ecuadoran journalist that on the field and on a map, one can clearly see that there is a mountain peak here. When it rains on this side, the water runs into the Cenepa River; and when it rains on the other side, the water runs into the Coangos River into Ecuador.

[Lombardi] [words indistinct]

[Fujimori] Of course. They are called the high peaks. Thus, there is a line that divides the watershed. That is a borderline that should be demarcated. Obviously, one should go with a cartographer and a topographer, and see exactly where the marker should be erected to set the border.

[Lombardi] Topographers and cartographers can easily do the job with the use of satellite facilities and the aid of the guarantor countries.

[Fujimori] That is right.

[Lombardi] There are many subjects on which I would like you to comment, engineer Fujimori. I would like to talk about the Ecuadoran marches and countermarches, which occurred in the past and which are again occurring today in light of the Brasilia meetings. I would like you to tell us about the marches and countermarches of Ecuadorans in Brasilia during the past 53 years in relation to the Rio Protocol, as well as in recent weeks in relation to the agreement that was almost concluded thanks to the advice and goodwill of the guarantor countries. Why did Ecuador decide not to sign the agreement? Could it be true that President Duran-Ballen was afraid of a military coup if he made any type of concession?

[Fujimori] I really do not know the reasons why the Ecuadoran Government declined to sign the document that became the Itamaraty Peace Declaration...

[Lombardi] At Ecuador's request, it was called a declaration instead of agreement.

[Fujimori] That is right. They asked for it to be called a declaration instead of agreement because they claimed that if it were an agreement, just like in Peru, it would have to go through [passage indistinct].

Those were an extremely exhausting five days.

[Lombardi] They woke you up early in the morning more than once.

[Fujimori] Well, we were up early in the morning because we wanted things to go fast. Thus, proposals and counterproposals were made until we finally reached the point of signing the Itamaraty Peace Declaration. Then we were asked if we agreed to call it a peace declaration instead of a peace agreement, we said fine. The question is that [words indistinct].

[Lombardi, interrupting] ...because there was a retreat to areas that are unquestionably Peruvian and Ecuadoran.

[Fujimori] Right.

[Lombardi] Coangos, in the case of Ecuador...

[Fujimori] All Ecuadoran troops went to Coangos, while our troops went to Watch Post 1—our most northern post, which we established in 1950. Therefore, the coordinates were clear and there was no doubt whatsoever.

Well, that was 0300 on Saturday. We were also asked if we agreed—it is rather utopian, isn't it?—if the recall of Ecuadoran troops to Coangos—from the Peruvian side—would be called a withdrawal [repliegue]. For Ecuador, this word means something like retreat [retiro]...

[Lombardi, interrupting] [words indistinct]

[Fujimori, continues] ...which is closer to surrender, right?

We also wanted them to be able to (?use it) domestically because, in the final analysis, we wanted the withdrawal, in practice, and that the Rio protocol to continue to be operational.

Consequently, instead of a withdrawal we used the verb concentrate. Fine. Let us say, well...

[Lombardi, interrupting] That was the final agreement?

[Fujimori] Perhaps, I don't know, but [changes thought] ... and there was also a fourth article the Ecuadoreans wanted to incorporate. We believe it was obviously for Ecuador's internal use, in the sense that the names, or the alleged borders described in articles 1, 2, and 3 were not meant to be conclusive definitions. That was the context.

So, there was also the agreement on Falso Paquisha. The only thing missing was to fill in the hour for the cease-fire. We asked for 6 hours after the signing. It was 0330, and it was ready...

[Lombardi, interrupting] The cease-fire should have begun at 0930, had the agreement been signed at 0330.

[Fujimori] Sure, had it been signed at that time.

There is nothing to be changed. It has been approved by both parties, Ecuador and Peru, and has been endorsed by the guarantor countries.

[Lombardi] Excuse me. In addition to normal communications with Deputy Foreign Minister Ponce, do you have any sort of communication with Quito, with the Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry, or the Ecuadoran president?

[Fujimori] No, I have had talks with the presidents of Brazil, Argentina, and Chile, and with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. When the two countries were disagreeing and there almost was a rupture in negotiations, the Brazilian president intervened and presented a proposal that would be easy to implement and that was undoubtedly very clear and transparent. As a result, this proposal was supported by the four guarantor countries.

[Lombardi] I wonder if the importance of Article 4 of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol has been sufficiently emphasized to the four guarantor countries. I imagine it has, because this article shows that Ecuador would have been in breach of the treaty even if its troops had been in Ecuadoran territory. Article 4 of the Protocol states that until demarcation of the region ends, no military troops can be admitted in the region.

[Fujimori] That is true. There really is disrespect for the terms of the Protocol and not only at Coangos. Banderas has also been moved into Peruvian territory and Mirador too. We must remember that there are two sites called Mirador. Therefore, the Protocol is being disrespected. Nevertheless, with the passing of time and the assistance of the guarantor countries we will ensure respect for the terms of the Protocol.

[Lombardi] You traveled to Quito in 1992 and in a clear gesture of peace and goodwill—and I really believe this gesture was so—you handed an overall proposal to President Borja. I think you must now feel some frustration. Was your trip useless?

[Fujimori] No.

[Lombardi] Has it not produced the expected results?

[Fujimori] No, I do not think so.

[Lombardi] What were the results, Mr. President?

[Fujimori] For some time there was detente at the border. This gave us some relief and a chance to fight against terrorism. We have eliminated, or almost eliminated, terrorism. Now, we face difficulties at only one site [laughs]. Just imagine...

[Lombardi, interrupting] A proposal to gain time [words indistinct] your visit...

[Fujimori, interrupting] Not just that. As there was clear detente at our border with Chile and Ecuador, I was allowed to concentrate on fighting terrorism, without overlooking the borders, of course. I ask myself and ask you all: How difficult would it have been for us now if we had been in that situation: If we had been fighting terrorism, we would not have been able to deploy our troops because there would have been a debacle here in the interior.

[Lombardi] In your contacts with the presidents of the guarantor countries and with Secretary of State Christopher, have you felt that somehow Peru was receiving privileged treatment from these countries? Perhaps because Peru had opened its economy, received important investments from the United States and Chile, and to a lesser extent from Argentina. Is there any sort of privilege, let us say, in the treatment being given to Peru by the guarantor countries?

[Fujimori] No, not for these reasons, but because of the better disposition Peru has shown in this negotiation. Peru showed a better disposition, which was translated into its willingness to sign the accord that Ecuador, at the last minute and for reasons unknown to me, did not sign. When I talked to the presidents of the guarantor countries and Messrs. Christopher and Watson, I realized that they understand perfectly well the Peruvian disposition and that of Ecuador. They understood how rationally and firmly the international treaty represented by the Rio de Janeiro Protocol supports the Peruvian position. I really believe that this success of our Foreign Ministry, which has not been pointed out, will allow us to demarcate the border.

[Lombardi] It has been admitted here. [Words indistinct] with varying degrees of enthusiasm the diplomatic success achieved over the pasts few days after Ecuador's [word indistinct] and blunders.

There is another field, however, in which Ecuador has clearly beaten us. Even Mr. Watson, who has been ambassador to Peru and who is willing to resolve this issue, has noted, after participating in the negotiations in Brasilia, that this problem was caused by the 1942 conflict in which Ecuador was stripped of half its territory.

In other words, how can you explain that Peru has been unable to (?convey) its message that there is no imperialist and voracious spirit over other territories here, that the 1942 conflict was not [words indistinct]?

[Fujimori] These remarks have probably been made, but, in this case, they will not [words indistinct] during this meeting between the guarantor countries and the two parties. The American stance is clear. America wants this protocol to be respected.

Anything may be said, that a given country has taken away a given portion of territory and so on, but there is an international treaty here. We have to (?be aware) that not a single administration has given up on this issue for 53 years [words indistinct] the Rio de Janeiro protocol.

I still have a clear recollection ...

[Lombardi, interrupting] [words indistinct]

[Fujimori] Absolutely, not a single American country would accept disregard of an international treaty. International treaties are effective forever.

[Lombardi] Undoubtedly, this represents a diplomatic success for Peru. I harbor some doubts about the successes achieved in the field of intelligence and eventually in the military area during the past few weeks. As opposed to the obvious diplomatic success achieved during the past few weeks, some people harbor doubts about whether a similar success has been achieved in the field of intelligence.

You have been somewhat unclear in saying that infiltrations of Ecuadoran troops were discovered in October and November and a reaction was reported in late January. It is also believed that these Ecuadoran infiltrations have been happening for months, if not years.

I have several questions: First, why did it take so long to discover the infiltrations? Second, why, after detecting them, did it take so long to react?

[Fujimori] As a Peruvian citizen, I obviously am also not satisfied with the fact that the exact date of these infiltrations remains unknown. I don't want to ...

[Lombardi, interrupting] But you can demand an explanation ...

[Fujimori, interrupting] Of course ...

[Lombardi, interrupting] and have a few heads roll.

[Fujimori] No, no. [passage indistinct] I believe it is not an overindulgence either. Concerning this situation, if you become acquainted with the jungle, and especially the jungle in the Santiago River basin and the Cenepa River basin, you will easily understand the topographic difficulties and the difficulties involved in this type of patrolling. This is not an undulated [ondulada], but a very wild jungle.

[Lombardi] You are saying it is fairly tall.

[Fujimori] It is a tall and humid jungle in which there are no possibilities of traversing it by boat. In other words, this situation involves very difficult conditions.

[Lombardi] Yet the physical or topographic conditions are similar on the other side of the mountain chain, on the western side, on the Ecuadoran side of the Condor range, but there are mining towns and roads.

[Fujimori] It is very difficult. You may go to ...

[Lombardi, interrupting] I would like to review this 1 to 50,000 scale model that the president has brought from Government Palace.

[Fujimori] This green line here is the Condor range, the summit of the Condor range. And this, on the western side, through 20 de Noviembre, is the last landmark demarcated.

Well now, you can see the bends. This is like a cup and there are many mountains inside this cup. Our surveillance post is here in this depression. These summits have different heights. For example, there is a 400 or 500 -meter difference between PV-1 [Surveillance Post No. 1] and Mirador.

[Lombardi] Where is Tihuinza on this scale model?

[Fujimori] Right here, a little bit higher up, and...

[Lombardi, interrupting] Where is Cueva de los Tayos?

[Fujimori] Right here, and I would like to discuss Cueva de los Tayos later. Base Sur is between Tihuinza and Cueva de los Tayos. As you can see it is very difficult to keep this part of the jungle under surveillance even if men are posted every 20 meters...

[Lombardi, interrupting] Excuse me, there seems to be a plateau of some kind on the Ecuadoran side.

[Fujimori] Yes, of course. On the Ecuadoran side it is much easier to build roads because the terrain is quite flat there. That is exactly what our neighbors have done. What I am trying to say is that from the Cenepa River basin the terrain gets very rough, which makes surveillance very difficult.

[Lombardi] I see.

[Fujimori] Your second question was...

[Lombardi, interrupting] How do you explain the delay in discovering the infiltration which began some time ago?

[Fujimori] Yes.

[Lombardi] The second question was why we took so long to react, given that in October or November...

[Fujimori, interrupting] That is when we started getting the first reports and so...[hesitates] first we took some precautions. These precautions did not imply an aggressive attitude but rather a defensive one.

Just think about these M1-25 helicopter gunships that Panorama showed its viewers today, the so-called flying tanks...

[Lombardi, interrupting] They are the most important weapon in this conflict, right?

[Fujimori] Undoubtedly so. You know these flying tanks are stationed in Arequipa, [word indistinct] and...

[Lombardi] Entire [words indistinct]

[Fujimori] That is right. You have seen that as soon as the conflict erupted the flying tanks were airborne. This was possible because some precautions were taken. Starting in November...

[Lombardi, interrupting] They are obviously not flown from one place to another...

[Fujimori, interrupting] Of course they are flown from one place to another, but the point is that to do so they have to carry pilots, equipment, spares, ammunition, which is obviously not an easy thing to do. So they were flown to [name indistinct] and when the conflict erupted we were ready. This means our reaction was timely so that when the bombing took place we immediately launched our land and airborne operations.

[Lombardi] Why were the news media left in the dark? One can understand that when there is a conflict or a war there are confidential matters that should not be aired, but I believe that by keeping the media in the dark we harmed Peru's image in the eyes of the international community.

[Fujimori] You are talking about what happened initially but what counts is the end result. The end result will be that Peru will be proven right as can be seen already in the firm attitude of the guarantor countries. To have become involved in an information war, trying to answer their lies would have been counterproductive. Furthermore, our strategy was aimed at another objective: to make Ecuador abide by the Rio Protocol. There was no point, therefore, in fanning the flame of belligerence. We decided to take Ecuador to the negotiating table and this was accomplished while the military apparatus went on working.

[Lombardi] What is the explanation—both the Foreign Ministry and the intelligence service should have formulated an explanation on the change in the Ecuadoran position. Did that change involve a strategy about which we should be concerned? Why did it happen at a specific moment? Did someone make a mistake? It does not seem precise...

[Fujimori] No, no, it is not a mistake because we were surprised at this, because the National Security Council of Ecuador mentioned the guarantor countries and the Rio Protocol, without making direct reference to their recognition of the validity of the Protocol. Yet on the following day, in response to a journalist's question (?which I consider rather) inquiring, the Ecuadoran Foreign Minister said Ecuador recognizes the validity of the Protocol. Yet this ...

[Lombardi, interrupting] He recognized the validity of the Protocol, took journalists to their bases, and told them they are in Ecuadoran territory, and this was then transmitted to the world.

[Fujimori] Right. Yet we have the support of an international treaty. One can say just anything, but no one can change an international treaty.

Consequently, it was not necessary to answer "No, the helicopters that are being used are not U.S. helicopters, but our own helicopters," after the United States denied it, or that the death tally was so much... No, it was not worth engaging in that type of information confrontation, because, in the end—just consider the latest reports—little by little, analyses are being made in the international press with the conclusion that the international treaty should actually be respected.

[Lombardi] That is not the case of important magazines like Time and Newsweek, which even though saying that the Protocol should be respected...

[Fujimori, interrupting] Yes.

[Lombardi, continues] ... they continue to mention the issue of the 200,000 square km lost by Ecuador, and Peruvian voracity. Yet, Mr. President, I would like to change the subject, because you seem to be very satisfied with the performance of the Armed Forces in the conflict, in which deaths...

[Fujimori, interrupting] And of the Foreign Ministry too.

[Lombardi] And of the Foreign Ministry too. Do you think the Foreign Ministry was rather sluggish, for example, with its recent call to 18 or 19 outstanding figures. Should it have begun without waiting 15 days to make the call?

[Fujimori] No. I believe everything has been done at the right time. The guarantors now have adopted a clear position. Ecuador is now sitting at the negotiating table, and the only thing missing is to clarify the situation to various countries. The important thing is that this matter has been very well understood.

[Lombardi] The issue of national unity [words indistinct]. This is a very important volume, Volume VIII of the History of the Peruvian Republic [anchorman shows book]—I have just reported about this work by [words indistinct]—which reports the immense disunity that arose between Peruvians, and which justify the defeat in 1881-82. Should you make a gesture of national unity?

Why not summon, for example, former President Fernando Belaunde and listen to him.

[Fujimori] (?Or Javier Perez de Cuellar.)

[Lombardi] For example.

[Fujimori] Sure. Er... er [hesitates]—there is now a strong feeling of national unity, beyond differences of any kind. I believe this attitude is very positive. Yet each personality has his own task now. We have elected 18 people (?from the) press, the Foreign Ministry, intellectual circles, right?, But this does not preclude their participation. I am sure they will do it, (?leaving aside) discrepancies. I believe...

[Lombardi, interrupting] Mr. President, that is highly encouraging. President Alberto Fujimori has been kind enough to attend Panorama to answer a battery of questions which has no similarities with an anti-air battery.

Mr. President: You are obviously proud of the Armed Forces' performance. Your smile of satisfaction in view of the performance of the Mi-25, for example, is obvious. Although there is a yet unspecified number of Peruvian casualties—which I would like you to specify in the next few minutes—and elite officers have been killed, you have referred to this as a little war and skirmishes. Isn't this a bit inconsiderate for those who are fighting in the Upper Cenepa basin to describe this only as a skirmish?

[Fujimori] From the military viewpoint this was a skirmish in the beginning because it was centered in a very small area of our territory. This, of course, was gradually extended and deteriorated. It has compelled our Armed Forces to adopt firm and effective action with a display of heroism which has resulted in painful deaths.

In fact, this is a military conflict that provokes difficult situations. You can imagine that we have already suffered 36 casualties.

[Lombardi, interrupting] ... this is the total number of Peruvian casualties thus far?

[Fujimori] These are the dead. There have been 70 wounded thus far. These have not been serious injuries. We have suffered 36 deaths which are mourned by 36 families. But we have acted firmly and most important of all we are defending our national territory...

[Lombardi, interrupting] ...but are we firmly defending our national territory? Ecuadoran Defense Minister Gallardo states that it is not true that we have recovered Cueva de Los Tayos or Base Sur, and there have been some Ecuadoran attacks in the last couple of days. What is the real situation in Cueva de Los Tayos and Base Sur? Have they been completely recovered and is Peruvian domain on these bases absolutely consistent?

[Fujimori] They are absolutely safe. I am sure General Gallardo would not go to Cueva de Los Tayos or Base Sur to raise the Ecuadoran flag. If the Ecuadoreans were in control I am sure they would report it and would do that—but they are not.

I would like to add something about what we have found regarding Cueva de Los Tayos. If the camera could please focus on the map, this is an Ecuadoran map. This is what is called Cueva de Los Tayos, Base Sur and Tihuinza which is where we are currently fighting.

If you look here to the North, inside this circle, there is another location named Cueva de Los Tayos.

[Lombardi interrupting] ... on the banks of the Santiago River.

[Fujimori interrupting]...on the banks of the Santiago River while the other Cueva de Los Tayos is on the other side. This is what happened in 1981 when we had Paquisha on one side and they established another location which was also named Paquisha. These name games clearly show Ecuador is not acting seriously.

[Lombardi] Mr. President, I believe we have discussed in detail the military and diplomatic aspects of the conflict. In the final part of the program I would like to discuss the economic side. You have reported that the conflict has cost 25 million soles. This is difficult to believe; is it because we have lost planes and mobilized thousands of men?

[Fujimori] Yes, of course, but I was only referring to the expenses involving the mobilization of soldiers and officers and fuel costs because we did not need to purchase war materiel. In fact, our Armed Forces were well prepared. There is also talk about $20 million, but I do not know how I could spend $20 million per day-....[chuckles]

[Lombardi, interrupting]... 5 million [currency not specified] per day according to the defense budget, right?

[Fujimori] Well, the additional budget...

[Lombardi, interrupting] [words indistinct]

[Fujimori, interrupting] ... of course, added to the normal Armed Forces budget which, nevertheless, entails an expense. These are comparatively small expense [words indistinct] a supreme decree that provides for the transfer of about 25 million soles to the Armed Forces. Well, what is important here is that we were prepared to defend the country and that we have had no major requirements except that one.

[Lombardi] At a given time we will be compelled to account for the fallen helicopters because they will have to be replaced.

[Fujimori] Undoubtedly, they will have to be replaced.

[Lombardi] I am also interested in other economic consequences. What will be the reaction of those who enthusiastically looked upon Peru as a possible target for productive investments because it had managed to resolve its main problems through considerable efforts and had opened up its economy to the world? I ask you, to what extent does this conflict affect these investors? My other question is, how will it influence certain domestic problems? For example, will the privatization program be reviewed? Some people have said this shows how badly the country's interests (?were mismanaged) because Lima power companies are in the hands of Chileans and Chile has always been Ecuador's strategic ally. Will the privatization program be reviewed in the light of what is happening along the northern border?

[Fujimori] I will answer your first question about whether the conflict will harm the economy...

[Lombardi, interrupting] Whether it will harm investments?

[Fujimori, continuing] ...the investments, Peru's image in the eyes of the investors, and the opinion of Wall Street—one of the key world financial centers—on Peru. It is obvious that the present situation will arouse some concern among investors, especially if the conflict goes on for too long. It is well known, however, that our economy is very stable, and that the conflict is restricted to a small portion of our territory. People also see that Peru, and also Ecuador, is doing its best to restrict the conflict to the area in question.

Once the conflict is over, I expect to launch a campaign to recover the ground that we have lost. Of course we have lost ground, it is only fair to acknowledge that we have. As far as our economy, the nation's economic program is concerned, the conflict will not harm us the way it will harm Ecuador. We have not had any need...

[Lombardi, interrupting] ...to levy war taxes?

[Fujimori, continuing] ...war taxes, or special contributions. We have not [words indistinct] financial reserves, and have maintained budgetary balance, so much so, that this year's inflation will not surpass 10 percent, which is our target.

[Lombardi] Despite the conflict?

[Fujimori] Of course. Now, if we were forced to issue bonds for, say, 200 million soles to obtain money for the conflict, then inflation could shoot up to 2 percent per month. Proof that we are not incurring in the expenditures that have been mentioned...

[Lombardi, interrupting] $400 million.

[Fujimori, continuing] ...that is it...is that February's inflation will most certainly stand between 0.8 and 1 percent, well within our estimates. Now...

[Lombardi, prompting] The privatization policy.

[Fujimori] As far as privatization is concerned, before this conflict erupted—and in view of the many electoral proposals that the various political parties were making—we stopped the privatization of all large enterprises. As to what you have mentioned about Chile...

[Lombardi, interrupting] It is not that I really believe this accusation, it is just something I read today...

[Fujimori, continuing] It is groundless...

[Lombardi, interrupting] In fact if we are privatizing according to clear cut rules, nothing could prevent Ecuadoreans, or Ecuadoran capital, from buying—I do not know [words indistinct]—some of the docking facilities in northern Peru...

[Fujimori] There are provisions for this

[Lombardi] There are?

[Fujimori] Of course there are, er...[words indistinct]. Furthermore, ports are not sold, only port services, meaning loading and off-loading, but in any case, if Ecuadoran or Chilean capital is involved in a given facility it is obvious that they will have some intelligence of those places.

[Lombardi] I was expecting you to tell me, Mr. President, that it does not matter who owns the company but to what extent the Peruvian state controls it.

[Fujimori] Of course the Peruvian state will control the company because only the services are privatized. I would like, however, to answer your original question because you are obviously concerned that the loading and off-loading services in a given port... for example Iquitos.

[Lombardi] Iquitos, the port of Iquitos.

[Fujimori] [words indistinct] not likely to happen because there is a pre-selection of prospective buyers. So the likelihood of Ecuador taking over the loading and off-loading services in Iquitos is not very great because clients have to go through a pre-selection process and if Ecuadorans showed interest in bidding for these services we would have to take precautions, as we have already done. Thus, no port or airport services have been turned over to countries that could pose, quote, risks, unquote.

[Lombardi] Mr. President, just one final comment. You have shown us that Cueva de Los Tayos is not in Ecuadoran territory. Why do we keep calling this Peruvian outpost Cueva de Los Tayos? Why don't we name it after someone who died in this terrible conflict?

[Fujimori] I like your proposal. The 38 people who have died have fought under such extremely difficult conditions that they deserve their names to be preserved forever. Temporarily, however, we are calling these places the so-called Base Sur, the so-called Tihuinza, but we will name them after these heroes...

[Lombardi, interrupting] ...So that as of tomorrow the so-called Tihuinza, or Base Sur, or Cueva de Los Tayos could be called after Mayor Marko Jara Schenone, or any of the other soldiers who fell in this battle.

[Fujimori] That is right.

[Lombardi] President, I thank you for coming here to openly discuss some key issues. Some of the lesser issues will have to await another occasion. I would like to share your optimism, so I will give you the few minutes we have left to convey your optimism to all Peruvians.

[Fujimori] One of the questions Peruvians ask is why we continue negotiating while the fighting goes on. We believe in peaceful solutions and we believe that we must define our borders by marking them once and for all. We should not, as people commonly say, pigeonhole it for five or 10 years. It should be done once and for all. That is why we are engaged in this important negotiation within the framework of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol

I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to convey to the citizenry at large that we are acting prudently but firmly and the people can rest assured that the government is handling this matter well. We will expell them from our territory in the next few days, although I prefer to announce things once they have been accomplished...

[Lombardi, interrupting] You would rather read the victory communique, and I hope you get to read it.

[Fujimori] I will, and in the meantime we will be working within the framework of the Rio Protocol and we will mark our borders once and for all...

[Lombardi, interrupting] You said a couple of days ago, however, that you do not believe that this final objective of demarcating the borders will be accomplished before 28 June, that it will take longer.

[Fujimori] It is a medium-term objective, it will take time. If you consider that it takes three or four days to negotiate one word of the agreement, you can imagine the demarcation will take months, years.

[Lombardi] Mr. President, I hope that in a few days we will end this military conflict and move on to the phase of diplomatic negotiations which may lead to the final solution to this border problem and allow us to implement a common development project like the one that [words indistinct] in 1992. Had it worked out the situation may have been different now.

[Fujimori] I am absolutely sure we will accomplish our objectives on all fronts and that it is necessary for us to remain united as we are now, without any ideological difference. This will enable Peru to firmly uphold its rightful position.

[Lombardi] Thank you engineer Fujimori, thank you Mr. President.

Leadup to Border Conflict Viewed

95SM0184A (Internet) DESCO Gopher in Spanish 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mirko Lauer has expressed the following view: "In the 1990's, Fujimori's more open approach gave Ecuador hope in this connection, to the point of leading its government to state that the moment of reaching the Amazon was just around the corner. But then, in 1994, these very high expectations were frustrated, creating a sense of disappointment on the frontier. Perhaps what is happening now is that a Sixto Duran who is disillusioned and rates poorly in the polls is presenting his bill. It is true that Peru is supported by international law and reason, but it is equally true that the persistent demands of a neighbor require more intelligent and subtle handling, with professional diplomats on the front line, and that the effect of promises that cannot be kept and unexpected changes in direction is to provide the irrational and vengeful sectors in Ecuadoran politics with arguments. At this point, nothing will do but firmness and insistence on the legality that supports the Peruvian position. But it is to be regretted that the country is in danger of having to adopt a hasty bellicose attitude, since under other circumstances it could have used the approach of skillful and fruitful dialogue." (LA REPUBLICA 28 Jan 95)

"One must ask oneself," he added, "why the Peruvian diplomats continued to be drawn along this path (beginning with Carlos Torres y Torres Lara's 'gentleman's agreement' at the beginning of the decade), and why Peru has plunged fully into the politics of weapons. To say that Ecuador precipitated this outcome, even if it is true, is neither a satisfactory nor an exculpatory answer, either internally or externally. The government might begin to offer some explanations. The first would pertain to what it was believed would happen when several years of irresponsible and excessive promises to two Ecuadoran governments were tossed aside overnight, in the process of moving farther away that lies at the root of the current situation. Perhaps this was planned conflict that could have been avoided in some way." (LA REPUBLICA 29 Jan 95)

The weekly periodical OIGA (No. 728, 30 Jan 95) reported as follows: "The incidents on the northern frontier, very serious according to the government's statements, require that the people of Peru unite in action and abandon their internal quarrels. On this issue, the Peruvian nation must speak with a single voice, demanding that peace be established as stipulated in the Rio Protocol. This is not the time to recall the warnings in this periodical when the Peruvian embassy in Brasilia, the principal seat of the guarantors of the Treaty of Rio, was left vacant—for two years! Nor is it the moment for additional criticism of the personal populist diplomacy pursued by the chief of state, which aroused vain hopes in Ecuador when he acted in complete ignorance of the problem, taking it into his own hands exclusively. Nor is it appropriate to recall the unfortunate 'gentleman's agreement' signed by Foreign Minister Torres y Torres Lara and Diego Cordovez, the mendacious Ecuadoran minister.

This was an agreement that failed to return to Ecuador the foundations for its territory, and a departure from the Protocol produced a senseless no-man's-land. It is the time now for united action oriented toward the future. There will be time later on to analyze the errors that never should have been made, and that would not have been if Torre Tagle's technicians had been consulted, rather than being dismissed. Let us pray that the martial conflict will be short and that it will not destroy us. And let us hope that for the second time, our rights in the Condor Range will be clarified in the light of the Rio Protocol, and not another "gentleman's agreement" that will again sow the seeds of tension on our national territory."

Early Warning Process Criticized

95P20489A (Internet) DESCO Gopher in Spanish 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text]

Ecuadoreans Said To Be in Country 4 Years

Lima weekly OIGA (No. 729, 6 Feb 95) wrote: "On Saturday 4 February, retired General Carlos Mauricio asked President Fujimori and General Hermoza, in the interest of credibility, to follow the example of President Fernando Belaunde and Commanding General Rafael Hoyos Rubio in the 1981 conflict: To take journalists to the locations which the Armed Forces have recaptured and to raise the Peruvian flag there. While we are seeing on TV foreign correspondents at the Ecuadoran combat sites, aided by Ecuadoran troops, on the Peruvian side there is increasing secrecy, and this is causing questions in the minds of the people. Questions which Ambassador Javier Perez de Cuellar succinctly put on 1 February in a message to the people: Since when have there been Ecuadoran detachments on Peruvian soil and why were the invaders not immediately dislodged? Although the government is keeping a strict silence on this topic, answers to these questions have started circulating. On Saturday, the daily EL COMERCIO published statements by the mayor of Cenepa District, David Espejo Secuta, who revealed that four years ago natives of Aguas Verdes discovered Ecuadoran Army personnel working in the Cueva de los Tayos area, and that this was brought to the attention of the Peruvian military authorities in the region. Similarly, there is the testimony of some villagers doing their military service in PV-1 and who, while on a patrol last November arrived at the outposts at Tiwinza and Base Sur that the Ecuadoran Army had erected on Peruvian territory. That information was given to the Joint Command of the Armed Forces. General Nicolas de Bari Hermoza Rios' responsibility, therefore, is obvious."

'Diversion' of Intelligence Service

Lima weekly OIGA (No. 729, 6 Feb 95) wrote: "During an interview broadcast Thursday 2 February on ATV News, retired General Luis Cisneros Vizquerra stated that the Peruvian early warning system had failed. "The early warning system on the border did not function," he said. General Cisneros thought this failure was due to the diversion of the intelligence services nowadays to domestic political work and election-oriented activities, by order of the executive branch. "You can't initiate an invasion without first redeploying troops inside Ecuadoran territory, and these troop deployments should have been detected by Peruvian intelligence," he said. Another matter that caught General Cisneros' attention was the lack of precision in the briefing by the commanding general of the Army, General Nicolas Hermoza. "He referred only to the infiltration in the Cenepa area. Nevertheless, he made no mention of what had happened in the area of the famous 'gentlemen's agreement," where the posts of Soldado Monge and Teniente Ortiz are located, and where there are Ecuadoran troops on Peruvian soil,' he said. Facts such as the ones General Cisneros pointed out, as well as the public's puzzlement that a force as large and powerful as Peru's was not able to adequately patrol 78 km of border land, demonstrate the urgent need to return to a fully professional Army, dedicated to protecting our territory instead of handing out almanacs and spying on political opponents of the government. Fujimori, who dreamed of going down in history as the founder of the 'New Fatherland' and as the messiah who solved all of Peru's problems, now knows that he risks being remembered as the president who could not dislodge the invader."

51,000 Military Names Said Purged From Voting Lists

95SM0184E (Internet) DESCO Gopher in Spanish 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] By means of a simple press communique, the National Election Board has announced the removal from the voting lists of 51,508 individuals in the military improperly included on those lists. This served in part to confirm the magnitude of the charge made by Javier Perez de Cuellar last November. Initially, Guillermo Quijada Romero, the technical director of the Electoral Register, said that the number of voters' booklets in the hands of military personnel did not exceed 500. This statement was supported by Victor Joy Way, who plunged into the fray at that time to give assurance that "the number (of booklets) is minimal." (Most dailies 18 Jan 95)

On 18 January, candidate Alejandro Toledo made the statement that the possession of voters' booklets by more than 50,000 individuals in the military and police bodies is a further indication of the lack of transparency in the electoral process. He said that the confirmation of this charge, along with other facts reported throughout the recent weeks of the campaign, reveal the deceitful competition that some candidates are facing. (Most dailies 19 Jan 95)

Perez de Cuellar on Local Leaders' Influence on Voters

95SM0184D (Internet) DESCO Gopher in Spanish 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Javier Perez de Cuellar, the presidential candidate of the Union for Peru (UPP), has delivered a document to Santiago Murray, the chief OAS observer, indicating to him that a group of prefects and governors have been engaged in propaganda activities promoting the reelection of President Fujimori. This was announced by the international observer at the press conference held on 23 January after the 40-minute meeting he had with the UPP leader. The charge made specific mention of the mayor of Chachapoyas, Francisco Ramos Santillan, who sent a letter on 27 December 1994 to the regional prefect of this city, Engineer Fredy Colina, in which he reported to him on the conclusions of the "First Base Assembly of the Committees To Support the Reelection of President Alberto Fujimori." After the meeting ended, Santiago Murray, who was accompanied by the UPP candidate for the second vice presidency, Guido Pennano, told the press that the documents providing evidence of the irregular actions of some state officials will be submitted to the pertinent authorities with a view to imposition of the applicable penalties. He gave assurance that "once they—the Peruvian authorities—make their decisions, we will inform Cesar Gaviria, the secretary-general of the OAS, of the results." (Most dailies 24 Jan 95)

Transparency in Electoral Process Discussed

95SM0184C (Internet) DESCO Gopher in Spanish 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 26 January, Lourdes Flores Nano expressed the view that direct access for the political groups to the results obtained at the JNE [National Election Board] computer center during the coming general elections will eliminate any doubts about the transparency of the electoral process. He added that the plan was submitted by his group to Santiago Murray, the head of the OAS observers' mission. The PPC [Popular Christian Party] candidate expressed these views after presenting his parliamentary plan of action. He said that "we in the parliament think that it is necessary to move forward from protests to proposals, and even to take the lead from the government in the task of modernizing the country." (Most dailies 27 Jan 95)

Lifting of Emergency Considered

The government is studying the possibility of gradually lifting the state of emergency imposed on certain departments in the country prior to 9 April, Minister of Defense Victor Malca Villanueva has informed Santiago Murray, the head of the OAS observers' mission in Peru. During their talk, the defense minister informed the Argentine diplomat of the role the Army and the Armed Forces will play in the coming electoral process. This information was provided by Murray after his meeting with Malca. The minister of defense said that there will be full guarantees of the impartiality of the Armed Forces in the electoral process, Murray reported. On the other hand, the lifting of the state of emergency in a number of provinces that have now been pacified will be a very positive step toward guaranteeing the transparency of the electoral process. It is extremely important, however, that the demobilization of the 2,800 self-defense committees under direct Army jurisdiction be taken into account in implementing this measure. This proposal was put forth by Carlos Tapia on 23 January in connection with the conversations the minister of defense had with the head of the OAS observers' mission on this issue. (Most dailies 24 Jan 95)

Toledo Decries Small Number of Observers

On 25 January, Alejandro Toledo stated that based on the previous experience with the referendum, the OAS observers are not a guarantee of a transparent electoral process. "With only 70 observers, and financial and infrastructure limitations, there is no guarantee of clarity in the election process," he asserted. However, Toledo declined to make any statement about the work the observers' mission has been doing. He also said that the government is reluctant to allow a larger number of international observers to participate in the coming elections. (GESTION 26 Jan 95)

Local Leaders Denounced

The mayor of Chepen, Cristian Diaz Prado, is reported to have personally distributed to the citizens thousands of calendars in color, with a photograph of him smiling at the side of the chief of state, together with the phrase "Fujimori president," appearing on the cover. In the opinion of the experts, this municipal leader has violated the electoral law in order to promote the reelection of the president, following in the footsteps of the challenged presidents of the regions of Loreto and Caceres, Tomas Gonzales Reategui and Juan Gil Ruiz, respectively. The latter individual has already been removed from office. It has been reported by his detractors that in order to produce the at least 10,000 propaganda calendars, Mayor Diaz Prado made bold use of funds from the municipal coffers. When questioned about this, the former president of the Lima Association of Attorneys, Jorge Avendano, said that the mayor of Chepen has violated several of the articles in the Electoral Law, and as a result, could be subject to a penalty of at least two years, but no more than six, in prison. (LA REPUBLICA 25 Jan 95)

On 25 January, Hector Zuzunaga Meneses, the prefect of the Arequipa region, removed the governor of the Paucarpata district from his post for engaging in political propaganda efforts to promote the candidacy of President Alberto Fujimori. Governor Aurelio Silva's removal from office was based on his "disobedience" of the directive issued by the regional prefecture prohibiting "engaging in propaganda campaigns to promote any presidential candidate." (LA REPUBLICA 26 Jan 95)

OAS Statement Called 'Premature'

The weekly periodical CARETAS (No. 1347, 26 Jan 95) reported the following: "The first statements made by

Santiago Murray, the head of the OAS mission, gave rise to concern in opposition political circles. Was it not premature to speak of 'normalcy' when the candidates had not yet been heard from? On 21 January, Murray had to respond with the statement that he had not meant normalcy of the process as a whole, but only the 'juridical-legal' structure that had been being built with normalcy. This statement too can be viewed with great caution, because there are indications that this structure is being built with the imperious stubbornness of the parliamentary majority. This is what happened with the last law limiting the candidate-president, which distorted what had been proposed by the JNE and imposed a biased interpretation that suited the desires of the government."

"The UPP [Union for Peru] has told Santiago Murray," the article added, "that it is necessary to assign observers to all of the polling places; to all of the sites and vehicles involved in the transportation of electoral documents, particularly in the rural zone; to all of the so-called storage centers; to all of the provincial electoral boards; and to all of the JNE computer centers. According to the UPP, this means that a minimum of 3,000 observers are needed—a figure that is a far cry from the 70 the OAS has guaranteed. In the opinion of the UPP, it is necessary to know if the mission is in a position to perform these complex activities. If this is not the case, the UPP believes that the OAS should consider if it is equal to the task, since it might lack the resources necessary in order to provide a veritable observers' mission for the elections in Peru." In very plain terms, the OAS has been urged to expand the resources and personnel for observation, since otherwise, it will be only one more mission to add to the files, but will contribute little to ensuring the full transparency of the elections."

OAS 'Obscuring' Facts

The weekly periodical OIGA (No. 728, 30 Jan 95) reported as follows: "The consequence of the presence in our country of the Argentine citizen Santiago Murray as an OAS observer has been countless criticisms of his actions. Like Mario Gonzales, who had these responsibilities before him, Murray has not provided any kind of guarantees of the effectiveness of his work, limiting himself to saying that 'he will follow' the charges put in his hands very closely. With this kind of attitude, it is very obvious that the OAS mission is merely serving to conceal from the world the obvious and irrefutable proof of the ways in which the candidate-president is using and abusing his position as head of state to guarantee his reelection. Murray has also said that he will study the last three electoral consultations in order to establish whether or not there were irregularities. What good will it do for Mr. Murray to come and certify officially to processes that have ended, in which deception was the order of the day, even though no OAS 'observer' admitted knowing that?"

AP: No Confidence in OAS

Raul Diez Canseco, the Popular Action (AP) candidate for the presidency, has stated that he has no confidence in the impartiality of the mission of OAS observers now in Peru to guarantee the transparency of the elections on 9 April. "Our party will not participate in any meeting at the request of the OAS observers, because we do not believe in them, above all after the lamentable role they played in the referendum," were his critical words. These statements were made during a press conference, in the course of which he charged that there is a danger that almost a million citizens living in the emergency zones will be forced to vote for the reelection candidate, just as occurred during the referendum. This would be due to the fact that some of the leaders of the peasant patrols, many of them "repentant" terrorists, are engaged in actions to promote President Fujimori, and in addition, have terrorized the population, because they are constraining their right to assemble. In support of what he said, he showed a video containing scenes observed during his visit to Quinua, Ayacucho, with peasants stating that some rural patrol members are preventing the citizens from participating in the political life of the country. One of them recounted that in the last municipal elections, one of his sons ran as a candidate for mayor, but had to flee the zone because of the hostile actions to which he was subjected by the patrol members. Diez Canseco added that irregularities are not likely to occur in Lima, but in the most distant provinces. (Most dailies 20 Jan 95)

Pressure on Patrols Denied

At a press conference on the following day, Efrain Goldenberg, president of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs, addressed the electoral issue and denied that the peasant patrols are being subjected to any pressure at all to commit "fraud," as candidate Raul Diez Canseco had charged. "Every means is being used to speculate about possible fraud. In the past it was the business of the notebooks, and now this (the patrol members). I must say that these patrols do not come under the jurisdiction of any ministry, nor are they being pressured by the government, because they are private organizations," he explained. On the other hand, he voiced support of the decisions of the National Election Board pertaining to disqualification of the parliamentary slates that do not meet the requirements of the law. "Where Mrs. Susana Higuchi is concerned, I greatly regret her decision to undertake a hunger strike and put her health at risk. This is an action that does harm to the image of Peru abroad," he said. (Most dailies 21 Jan 95)

High-Level Officials Linked to Drug Lord

95SM0184B (Internet) DESCO Gopher in Spanish 3 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 10 January, the police raided a storage facility for carob beans in Piura, where they found 3,342 kilograms of cocaine hydrochloride. Manuel

Lopez Paredes is accused of being one of the leaders of the so-called "Northern Cartel," the criminal organization to which the impressive lot of cocaine confiscated in Piura belonged. Manuel and his brother Jose Tito, together with 46 other individuals implicated in the alleged criminal activities carried out by that gang, are being held in the premises of the DINANDRO in Lima.

Later, the pocket notebook (found by a Channel 9 reporter) belonging to Jose Luis Mendiola, the trusted assistant of drug trafficker Jose Tito Lopez Paredes, proved to contain the telephone number of the Joint Command of the Armed Forces and the names and telephone numbers of Brigadier General Manuel Ortiz Lucero, EP [Peruvian Army] (334817), and Major Edwin Burgos Goycochea, PNP [Peruvian National Police] (751111, Ext. 367), as well as careful notations of dates and times of appointments. The notebook also contained the name and telephone number of Dr. Edgard Solis Cano (756660), the current vice minister of interior and former vice minister of justice under the present government; the name of Congressman Juan Hermoza Rios; and the names of Jaime Ridoutt, Elmer Evangelista, and Ada Ortiz Lucero, candidates for a vice presidential post and seats in the next Congress. Brigadier General Manuel Ortiz Lucero is a member of the General Staff and is responsible for the operations of the Domestic Front Operational Command (COFI), a body that specializes in the control of drug trafficking under the jurisdiction of the Joint Command of the Armed Forces. Edgard Solis Cano, a criminal lawyer and vice minister of interior, is an intimate friend of Vladimiro Montesinos, a high-ranking official in the National Intelligence Service (SIN) and a key man in determining the government strategies in this field. According to Solis, his functions in the Ministry of Interior are basically administrative. (EL MUNDO 18 Jan 95)

Investigation Under Way

The current vice minister of interior, Edgard Solis Cano, is not the only prominent individual listed in one of the notebooks of the Lopez Paredes brothers' organization. The entries include the names of two other officials employed at the Ministry of Interior. Their connection with the drug trafficker Jose Luis Mendiola have recently begun to be investigated. Another of the individuals implicated is Major Edwin Burgos Goycochea, who is currently working at the Police Operations Center, a body which answers to none other than General Victor Alva Plasencia, director general of the National Police. Major Burgos has worked in this police department for two years, and on various occasions, it can be concluded from the notations found in the notebook, he has been visited in his offices on the third floor of the Ministry of Interior by the drug trafficker Jose Luis Mendiola Salgado. According to the investigations, and to what Burgos himself has confessed, his links with Mendiola date back 20 years to a time when both were living in Trujillo." (EL MUNDO 19 Jan 95)

Columnist on President's 'Impunity'

Fernando Rospigliosi (CARETAS No. 1347, 26 Jan 95) has stated the following: "Despite the bold-faced manipulation of the resources of the state for his own benefit, Alberto Fujimori is encountering increasing problems in trying to ensure his reelection. Two events in recent days have been added to the continuing charges of illegal and immoral misuse of public funds and institutions by the president-candidate. These events were Susana Higuchi's hunger strike, and the link established between the Lopez Paredes brothers' drug gang and the political regime (...). The connections between this group and government officials are affecting the president. It is obvious that the apparatus for concealment has been put into operation again. As has been occurring throughout the four and one-half years of Alberto Fujimori's government, what is most likely is that again in this instance, the charges will disappear into tangled situation in the police and court systems under the control of the adviser, and none of the leading personalities involved in the drug traffic will be touched. While the citizens may initially have believed that the fact that no cases of corruption were found or punished within the government was an indication of honesty, there is now room for the belief that it is simply a matter of impunity. What is happening now, as 9 April approaches, is the progressive deterioration of Fujimori. The displeasure of many people has become obvious. However, it is not yet clear which candidate would be capable of clearly exploiting this attitude of rejection. When this becomes clear, there will be no poll capable of reassuring the solitary and already worried occupant of the Palace."

Uruguay

Lacalle, Sanguinetti Agree To Form Coalition Government

PY1302003295 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1848 GMT 10 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Montevideo, 10 Feb (EFE)—Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle and President-elect Julio Maria Sanguinetti today agreed to form a coalition government. Technicians and politicians from the "Blanco" [National Party] and "Colorado" parties will participate in the future cabinet.

The news was confirmed by a communique in which the political group headed by Lacalle agrees to occupy the Housing and Environment Ministry.

The electoral parity that resulted from the November elections, in which the electorate was practically divided into thirds, forced the victorious Colorado Party to quickly look for coalition partners.

Shortly before the official announcement Lacalle publicly stated that the next administration would "substantially" maintain the economic policy implemented during the past five years.

Lacalle added "the time has come to surrender the seat and continue the works that are of national interest by definition," recalling that "many of the bills we sponsored are again being proposed today," and stressing that "we will be present to see that they are approved without delay in 1995."

Lacalle and Sanguinetti defined the terms of the ruling administration's co-participation in the administration that will start ruling the country on 1 March.

The presidential report says that Lacalle and Sanguinetti agreed "on the urgent need to reform the social security system, give priority to educational reform, and approve a more agile juridical framework for the administration of public companies."

The report says the two leaders agreed to privatize secondary activities that are today in government hands, "to end the monopoly of alcohol production, and in general, to implement inter-party commission recommendations."

Lacalle and Sanguinetti decided to support a constitutional reform "in order to make the operation of democratic institutions more efficient. The two leaders renewed their efforts to seek the approval of a political parties law seeking, among other things, to allow parties to have a more organic operation avoiding the multiplicity of presidential candidacies and incorporating party discipline mechanisms."

The traditional parties, through Lacalle and Sanguinetti, committed themselves to struggle for a balanced and clean national budget, with norms seeking to reduce public spending even more, and to embark on intense and urgent legislative activity from the beginning of the new congressional session.

The official communique concludes by saying that the two parties will coordinate their efforts "to see that policies hereby mentioned and which are considered of national interest will be presented as draft bills of rapid approval."

Sanguinetti closed agreements with the two other "Blanco" presidential candidates, Alberto Volonte and Carlos Julio Pereyra, to form the new administration's cabinet before obtaining the support of Lacalle and his political faction.

The leftist coalition Broad Front, the third political force in the country, did not agree to participate in the cabinet, but it is working with the elected government in the search for an agreement in the Inter-party Commission to approve specific social bills.

The coalition also asked to participate in the administration of autonomous entities and public companies, just as occurred during the previous Sanguinetti administration (1985-1990).

The "Colorados" obtained 32.3 percent of the votes in the November elections. The ruling National (Blanco) Party ended in second place with 31.2 percent of the votes and the Broad Front coalition ended in third place with 30.6 percent of the votes.

The New Space, a new social democratic organization that is also participating in the coalition, obtained 5.2 percent of the votes.

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